

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103



Photo: David Wicall

Crowned Heads

Mr. & Miss Gay California '95 were crowned recently in San Diego. The 22nd edition of the annual pageant saw 27-year-old *Playgirl* model Chris Homeier (left) take the Mr. Gay California title and Finocchio's regular "Valentine," 31, become the new Miss Gay California.

Gay Man Alleges Abuse at SF Taco Bell

by Dennis Conkin

A Hispanic San Francisco gay man has filed a lawsuit against the Taco Bell located at 973 Market Street, alleging a worker called him a faggot in Spanish as he entered the store on July 31 - and then grabbed him by the shirt collar and shook him while he waited to place his food order.

"It was totally outrageous and unacceptable behavior," said attorney Barry K. Tagawa, who filed the lawsuit in August on behalf of 33-year-old Alberto Fontana. "It's totally indefensible and opens the matter up for punitive damages."

According to Tagawa, Fontana was merely waiting in line to place his late afternoon order

when Taco Bell employee Lorena Escobar noticed him and began calling him "maricón," a Spanish epithet meaning "faggot," in full hearing range of other Taco Bell workers and patrons.

Fontana told the *Bay Area Reporter* that no one from Taco Bell intervened to stop the assault when Escobar grabbed his shirt collar and began shaking him, even though a security guard was present.

Fontana said that the way Taco Bell responded to the incident indicated that they were tolerant of Escobar's verbal and physical abuse.

"If they were professional as managers, they should have suspended her or fired her immediately. They didn't. To make matters worse, the security guard did not intervene," Fontana said.

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Lesbians Push for Equality in China

by Ruth Youngblood, United Press International

Basking in unprecedented visibility, lesbians in Huairou, China told reporters Sunday, September 3 they are pressing for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the action platform emerging from the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women - and denied stripping or teaming up with prostitutes are part of their strategy.

Undaunted by the seizure of Chinese pamphlets from their tent and incessant photos taken of those inside by security officials, the women said they have formed their own force to deal with harassment.

"We will not be silenced," said Palecia Beverly Ditsi, from South Africa. "We are doing hard work, educating people about who we are." With an officially-sponsored "Lesbian Tent" for the first time at a Non-Governmental Organizations Forum, and the subject of sexual orientation to be debated by the conference, the 11 lesbian and gay organizations are optimistic about the outcome despite opposition from the Vatican and many government delegations.

"Sexual orientation needs to be included," said Julie Dorf, executive director of the San

Continued on page 21

Invention's Intention: Prevention

...Focusing on negative gay men

by Kent Bradley

Unlike the song lyric that suggests we "accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative," a new grassroots gay organization in San Francisco plans to do the opposite - to accentuate the negative in an effort to eliminate the positive.

Organizers of the new, all-volunteer "Invention" HIV prevention program said at a Friday, September 1 press conference it will use a "radical common sense" approach and will pay more attention to the still-un-

infected half of the community. Joe Brewer, a Ph.D. who pulled the group together, and Dana Van Gorder, lesbian and gay health services liaison for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, said they were aiming for a September 15 startup of a series of community meetings and peer-facilitated discussion groups whose primary target audience is HIV-negative men. However, it was emphasized that the forums will be open to everybody.

"A key way to help stop new HIV infections in San Francisco is to talk openly to

HIV-negative gay and bisexual men about our experience living in the epidemic, and what will help us to stay uninfected," Brewer, the founding director of the new project, said. "Next comes the task of rebuilding an emotionally numbed community into one that is vital, and supportive of good health and lives filled with meaning."

Brewer described Invention as a primary prevention project, and said most of its meeting will address negative men's issues, but added that many of the topics it covers will

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House Homo Hearings Delayed

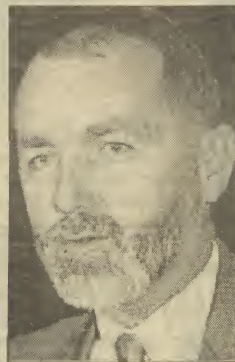
by Mary Ann Swisler

A Congressional hearing to look into the "appropriateness" of queer curriculums and sex education has been delayed for a month, largely due to scheduling problems, an aide to Republican Congressman Peter Hoekstra of Michigan told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

A new date has not yet been set, according to Hoekstra press secretary Jon Brandt. This is the second time they have been announced, and the second time they have been postponed.

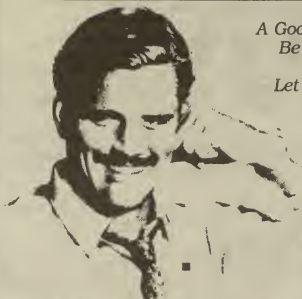
Although national gay and lesbian activists have already dubbed them the "No Promo Homo" hearings, Brandt characterized them as a balanced, unbiased look at a "number of social issues in public education."

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Congressman Peter Hoekstra

DENTIST



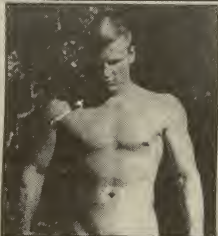
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Rick Gerhart

Carpet Cleaner

The Ring holds S/M workshops and educational events every Saturday for men interested in S/M, B&D and related sexual practices. Here in a previous "Uniform Fetishes" workshop, Peter Fiske and Jim Reid demonstrate control techniques on "prisoner" Richard Laws — as well as a novel way of removing annoying cat hair from your carpets. For location, time, and workshop title, call The Ring's message mailbox at 522-9697 and leave your name and phone number. A Ringer will, um, ring you back.

Coit PWA Housing Files Chapter 11 as Taxes Mount

by Mary Ann Swissler

The owner of the troubled Coit Apartments in Oakland owes so much in back Alameda County property taxes he may lose the building, meant to house up to 32 people living with HIV/AIDS, to government foreclosure, the B.A.R. has learned.

If Steve Davis does not make payment by the end of the county's 1994-1995 fiscal year on September 29, 1995, he will owe \$257,227.99 in taxes and penalties from the past four years. And if Davis's company, D&T Investments, defaults for a fifth straight year in 1996, Alameda County will have the dubious privilege of owning the building, a worker in the county tax records office said.

Additionally, despite a firm denial to the B.A.R., D&T Investments has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on the 105-unit, downtown Oakland building, according to county Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector records. If the bankruptcy on the property is approved, D&T could sell the building rather than watch it get parceled off by the county, according to an attorney familiar with realty issues.

Davis insisted in an interview with the B.A.R. this week that he has not filed for bankruptcy on the Coit. Further, he said, he filed for a reassessment on property taxes owed by the Coit three years ago and the situation has still not been resolved. The five-year rule quoted by the county tax assessor's office did not faze Davis, who predicted the disagreement would not end up in foreclosure.

"I don't consider that any big deal," he said. "Probably two-thirds of the income property in downtown Oakland has been in that status at one time or another."

Disaster Assistance

Davis, who bought the Coit Apartments in 1986, received a \$2,218,250 loan from the California Natural Disaster Assistance Program as part of the Shelter Plus Care/SRO program. In addition to the generous 30-year payback period and a rock-bottom 3 percent interest rate, D&T was able to use the disaster relief loan to pay off a \$683,785 second mortgage. (Davis maintained in an interview with the B.A.R. that he became interested in and eligible for California Natural DAP long before he applied for the Shelter Plus Care program.)

When D&T Investments received its state disaster loans in 1992, Davis bought a \$600,000 home in the

Oakland hills, with a loan obtained by the same bank and mortgage company that handled his loan from the DAP.

Despite the monthly rents he receives for Shelter Plus Care units — 120 percent of the fair market value — Davis complained to the B.A.R. that he hasn't seen much profit, largely because Shelter Plus Care residents have caused an unprecedented amount of damage to his apartment complex, located at 1445 Harrison Street. Since Shelter Plus Care residents started moving into the Coit in 1992, Davis said, he has had to expend enormous sums of money repairing damaged units, wiping out his profit margin.

He told the B.A.R. that destructive or even dangerous residents were not screened out of the pool of Shelter Plus Care clients allowed to move into the Coit. Oakland Housing Authority spokesperson Karen Euston maintained, "He doesn't have the obligation to take any particular tenant" under the contractual agreement, administered by the city of Oakland.

Amy Hodgett with the Alameda County Housing and Community Development told the B.A.R. that chronically homeless clients — including many with HIV/AIDS — are losing out on housing and services because the majority of Coit units sit empty. Already, only five people of the 32 who are supposed to be housed under the Coit's \$2.5 million contract with Shelter Plus Care live there, because of ongoing complaints about living conditions.

Hodgett explained that while Davis is paid only for occupied units, unused funds at the end of the ten-year grant period would be returned. Getting the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to approve a whole new facility isn't automatic, and could actually jeopardize the entire grant, she said.

In the meanwhile, California State HIV/AIDS advocate Excell McGinnis complained, "There's no service, no attention, no security" at the Coit. And, while a report on meetings held at the request of Oakland City Councilman Nate Miley on Shelter Plus Care is due out soon, McGinnis expressed disgust over the "kid gloves" treatment given to Davis and D&T Investments. He said the poor contract performance at the Coit was a flagrant case of fraud, adding that the same behavior by consumers or welfare recipients would land them in prison.

"You would lose your car, your bank account, and everything else that you possess," he said. "And then you would do time [in prison]. And these people need to serve the maximum, for mishandling, misusing, and misrepresenting the Alameda County funds." ▼

IMEIN

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B of A: Domestic Partners Coverage 'Not Appropriate'

by Dennis Conkin

Supervisor Tom Ammiano joined gay and labor activists this week in denouncing the Bank of America's refusal to grant healthcare benefits to domestic partners of lesbian and gay workers.

The Bank of America has had a troubled relationship with the local lesbian and gay community for several years because of its corporate support of the virulently anti-gay Boy Scouts of America.

The decision that the multinational financial services corporation would not grant the benefits was detailed in a recent issue of *On Your Behalf*, an employee newsletter obtained by the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Bank of America had previously announced that it had deferred the issue, but according to the newsletter, management has since decided not to offer such benefits.

"I'm sure that you can appreciate that this is an issue about which there is great disagreement concerning what is right or appropriate," Bank of America senior vice president Leslie R. Schlaegel wrote to readers.

Schlaegel said that the bank had formed an internal task force that had initially planned to reach no decision until Congress decided whether or not to provide universal healthcare coverage.

Schlaegel said that since Congress had taken no action on the issues, the bank's corporate Human Resources department revisited the issue - and decided that such coverage was "not appropriate" at this time.

"When will it be appropriate?" Ammiano asked the *Bay Area Reporter*. "What a corporate Jurassic Park cop-out."

The Bank of America said that one of the reasons it would not issue such benefits to domestic partners was that survey data indi-



Tom Ammiano

cate that just eight percent of U.S. corporations provided such benefits.

"In the financial services industry, where we offer a very competitive salary and benefits package to attract and retain the people we need for business to succeed, neither BofA nor any other major bank offers this benefit," Schlaegel wrote.

The bank's refusal to stop funding the anti-gay Boy Scouts of America led to an attempt in 1993 by then-Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg to transfer city funds deposited with the BofA to other financial institutions.

Bank of America responded by successfully pressuring some non-profit groups it supported with tax-deductible contributions to oppose the divestiture effort. The effort failed after the directors of non-profit agencies, including Delancey Street, a drug rehab group, and Suicide Prevention spoke out against the gay and lesbian community's divestiture

effort.

Several million dollars of funds from the San Francisco Unified School District were pulled from the BofA at Ammiano's behest, and some labor and community groups also canceled accounts with the bank in protest.

The reasons the Bank of America justifies its decision on the domestic partners benefits are "an insult," said gay community organizer Allen Carson.

"Because gays and lesbians cannot get a state certificate that sanctions our relationships, we are kept outside and not allowed to participate fully in society," Carson said. ▽

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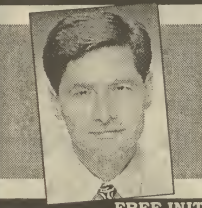
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New Treatment IND Available for Relapsing CMV Retinitis

by Kent Brandley

An investigational new drug trademarked as Vistide is now available for eligible patients with relapsing cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis.

Gilead Sciences, Inc., announced Tuesday, September 5 the investigational therapeutic agent will be made available free of charge to qualifying patients whose physicians register in the treatment investigational new drug (IND) program.

Vistide will be made more broadly available for the intravenous treatment of CMV retinitis in patients with AIDS whose disease has progressed, despite treatment with an approved therapy or who cannot tolerate such treatment, said Lana Lauher, spokeswoman for Gilead Sciences Inc. in Foster City.

Untreated, CMV retinitis progresses rapidly and ultimately can lead to blindness.

Lauher said treatment investigational new drug programs are part of an effort by the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) to make promising investigational drugs available for the treatment of patients with serious or immediately life-threatening disease, where no comparable or satisfactory alternative therapies exist. Physicians involved in the Vistide treatment IND program will function as investigators and will be required to follow a clinical protocol designed by Gilead and the FDA.

CMV is the most common viral opportunistic infection in patients with AIDS, with approximately 95 percent of patients infected. Retinitis is the most frequent manifestation of CMV infection in patients with AIDS, occurring in approximately 15 to 40 percent of these patients. ▽

A toll-free information service is now available for physicians, healthcare professionals, and patients interested in obtaining information or enrolling in the treatment IND program: Call 1-800-GILEAD 5 (445-3235).

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Festival of the Babes Provides Wizardry, Wit, White Gloves

by Nancy Boutilier

Two dozen teams worth of athletic and adventuresome women gathered at West Sunset Playground over Labor Day weekend for the fifth annual Festival of the Babes (FOB) soccer extravaganza. As in previous years, the soccer was strong and the socializing was unbeatable.

While many loved traditions kept the festival same as it ever was - "FOB-ulous" - the new arrivals brought fresh soccer wizardry and wit to this lesbian-positive sports spectacle. Trying to upstage "The Housecoats" in the creative sportswear department were "The Deb-u-Taunts," donning white gloves, pearls, and an assortment of formal gowns to match their cleats. The Kennel Club might have made an even stronger showing, if only they could have found cleats to fit their canine companions. And, for the first time, word of festival fun enticed an East Coast team of babes to the Bay Area, as "UNC, We Ain't," joined the festivities.

For all the fancy footwork of the women on the field - kicking, trapping, passing, and scoring - the spirit of the festival might have best been captured after the final whistle of the championship



Photo: Nancy Boutilier

Pits and pearls: The Deb-u-Taunts managed to upstage The Housecoats in the sartorial splendor department and still play some terrific soccer while keeping their gloves spotless and jewelry intact at the Festival of Babes.

games when scores of babes in sports bras danced away on tired

legs as "I Kissed a Girl" blared out across the soccer pitch. ▼

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Deadline for Stanford GALA Reunion: Next Friday

by Kent Brandley

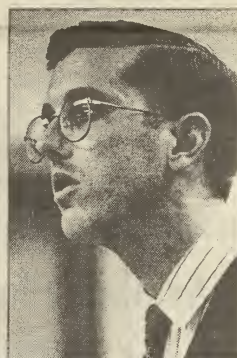
Advance reservations must be received before next Friday, September 15, for Stanford University Gay and Lesbian Alumni (GALA) who wish to attend the annual homecoming reunion on Saturday, October 14 at the university, a spokesperson for the board of directors said.

This year's event will feature a special program to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Gay Students Union at Stanford.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a reception at the Firetruck House, home of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Community Center. Current students will give tours of the center and share some of their experiences of gay life at Stanford today.

The program continues with dinner at 7 p.m. at the Faculty Club, followed by a panel discussion of gay and lesbian life at Stanford during the last few decades. Author and historian Gerard Koskovich will moderate the panel.

Persons who wish to attend should send a check in advance



Author and historian Gerard Koskovich will be the guest moderator at Stanford's GALA homecoming reunion Oct. 14.

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Students To Put Hal Call Scholarships to Good Use

\$50K fund helps Rhue, Hawking, Stewart, Silberkraus

by Dennis Conkin

One of the first scholarships awarded in August through the Hal Call/Mattachine Scholarships for students in the Gender Studies Program at the University of Southern California will fund continuing projects by Dr. Sylvia Rhue, an affiliate scholar at the USC Center For Feminist Research.

Rhue received the \$4,000 scholarship on Tuesday, August 8 from gay scholar Dr. Walter Williams, who heads the USC Center for Scholars in Residence, a think tank emphasizing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies.

Rhue will use the funds to assist her in the completion of two projects: *Soul Survivors: Lesbian, Bisexual and Heterosexual African American Woman*, a book about the construction and colonization of sex and religion in the context of race realities; and a video she is co-producing with Dr. Dee Mosbacher, the celebrated psychiatrist and Academy Award-nominated filmmaker.

The video Rhue will co-produce with Mosbacher and Frances Reid is called *All God's Children*, and will be used to counteract fundamentalist religious video propaganda.

The scholarship will be announced in the credits of the video, Rhue says.

Deus ex Mattachine

Call established the \$50,000



Photo: Ben Heath

At a recent meeting in Los Angeles, Hal Call (center) presented a \$50,000 check to David Cameron (right), president of the Institute for the Study of Human Resources, for scholarships for students in the USC Gender Studies Program.

scholarship fund to help continue the name and identity of the Mattachine Society, a pioneering homosexual 1950s homophile rights group.

Call is the creator and publisher of the historic *Mattachine Review*, which was published from 1955 through 1967.

Recipients of the grants of up to \$4,000 are chosen by the director of the One Institute Center for Advanced Studies, in consultation with Call. They are administered through a special fund set up by the Institute for the Study of Human Resources.

Others selected to receive the scholarship assistance include Joseph Hawking, a SC doctoral

student in anthropology researching the rise of homophobia in 20th Century Japan; Chuck Stewart, a USC doctoral student in education who is studying anti-homophobia training in police academies; and Sally Silberkraus, a USC doctoral student in psychology who is doing a dissertation on lesbian identity formation.

USC houses the One Institute archives, which include the collection of the former International Lesbian and Gay Archives of more than 22,000 books; 3,000 archived periodical collections; and more than 1,000 linear feet of subject archives; in addition to film, audio, video, photos, and other memorabilia and ephemera. ▼

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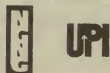
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Wayne Friday

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OPEN FORUM

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CARTOON



EDITORIAL

Textbook Cases

It is a point of both pride and concern that gays and lesbians live in a bubble here in San Francisco, with strength in numbers and enough insulation to let us to live (relatively) freely. We regretfully acknowledge that it ain't like 1979 in Gay San Francisco these days, but neither is it like 1995 in Cincinnati, where life is bleak indeed.

Taking so much freedom for granted is an affirming, positive experience for San Franciscans, unless it degenerates into a cold disregard for what life is like for gay people out there beyond those bridges. We forget what it's like when fear and isolation, in the words of *Black Adder*, "stalk the countryside like two great ... stalking things."

Nowhere is the potential for that fear and isolation greater than in public school. Is it a cultural stereotype to suggest that many or most gay people started school as good students, until the gay thing began nagging at us and ultimately separated us from our peers? Most of our friends remember the shift in emotion that accompanied the words "Back to School," from pleasure to dread, around the sixth grade. (Or sooner, or later: whenever hormones and societal pressures are at their greatest and least in accord.)

We mention this because kids are heading back to school, and because decisions are being made in Sacramento that will greatly affect California's gay and lesbian students. The state board of education is scrutinizing the Health Framework for the middle school curriculum, and is in danger of rejecting gay references.

As proponents of gay-friendly texts have often said, sexual references are not the issue. What's called for — and what may get rejected — are references to the multiplicity of family life. It is not indoctrination into a gay lifestyle to inform students that some of their fellow classmates will (or do) identify as gay, any more than letting Lutheran cheerleaders know there are Jewish students is indoctrinating them into the Hadassah.

Still, the mention of gay people is pushing a lot of buttons these days; the Traditional Values Coalition has waged war against any mention of our existence; and the board members were all appointed by this governor and the last one, so gay references may fall.

And, unfortunately, as falls California, so falls the nation, since our huge textbook market shapes the curricula of schools throughout the country.

Speaking of education, of the Traditional Values Coalition, and its doughy leader, Lou Sheldon, we are almost sorry that the on-again-off-again congressional hearings on "Homosexuality in the Classroom" are off again. Sheldon, we hear, organized the hearings (just as the National Rifle Association, rather than Congress itself, organized the C-Span Wacothon). The difference is, we think, the NRA is smarter than the TVC — isn't that a shopping channel? — and we were awfully curious what Lou and his crew considered their best trump cards to place dramatically before the American people.

The proposed hearings would have been a sham, surely, but they might have been so badly rigged as to offend the average viewer. In any case, we hope the leaders of the national gay organizations are using this time to prepare for the hearings whenever they're on again — and, of course, to fight for inclusion. There's no reason to believe we'll be invited to tell anyone about ourselves and our real lives.

That is, after all, exactly what we're trying to do in the classroom — and what Lou is trying so hard to prevent. His efforts should show all gay people how important it is to support education that is truly educational and inclusive. Every gay and lesbian student has a right to know there is nothing wrong with them; their straight classmates should be told the same thing.

"We don't need no education?" Think again. ▼

GUEST OPINION

Early Intervention: Just Say Hell No!

by Dave Pasquarelli
ACT UP/San Francisco

Recent studies contradict the belief that lifelong dosing with immunosuppressive chemicals extends survival time or enhances quality of life for people with HIV. Two clinical trials on early intervention with AZT monotherapy clearly discourage early treatment in HIV-positive people whose CD4 counts are greater than 500 cells per cubic milliliter. These studies also expose the worthlessness of peripheral blood viral load measurements and CD4 counts; dubious surrogate markers with little correlation to disease progression, quality of life, or survival time for people with HIV and AIDS.

In the July 15, 1995 *British Medical Journal*, European researchers reported on 436 patients who exhibited an AIDS-defining illness between January 1991 and December 1993, divided into two groups: those who were HIV-positive for up to eight years before displaying illness and those who discovered their HIV-positive status at the same time they exhibited an AIDS-defining illness.

Of the people who knew of their HIV-positive status before they became ill, nearly half were taking AZT and about 60 percent were prophylaxing against PCP. None of the patients who discovered their HIV-positive status at the time they exhibited their defining illness had received either treatment: they survived approximately one year longer than those subjects who knew about and treated their HIV infection with these drugs.

In light of his findings, Dr. Mark Poznansky, lead author of the study, expressed concern over what he considered to be the "overmedication" of AIDS patients in San Francisco. He stated, "In Britain, the word on the street among many patients is that you should only see a doctor when you get sick."

This viewpoint is reinforced by the results published in the August 17, 1995 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine* from the continuing ACTG019 study under the leadership of San Francisco General's longtime early intervention advocate Paul Volberding. The study concluded that initiating AZT therapy in HIV-positive individuals with CD4 counts greater than 500 per cubic milliliter "does not significantly prolong either AIDS-free or overall survival. These results do not encourage the routine use of AZT monotherapy in this population."

In addition to discouraging early intervention with antivirals, the studies underscore the inability to correlate increased CD4 counts and lower peripheral blood viral loads (both used to test the supposed effectiveness of antivirals and protease inhibitors) with any sort of clinical benefit or increased survival time. In both studies, patients on antiviral therapy appeared to have more slowly declining CD4 counts and lower blood viral loads but the "better" counts did not translate into better quality of life or increase in survival. Of course it is no secret that CD4 counts and peripheral blood viral load counts are useless. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, admitted that "peripheral blood measurements do not accurately reflect the total body burden of HIV infection; the lymphoid organs are the major reservoirs of HIV infection." (*NEJM*, Feb. 4, 1992)

On the surface, these recent studies may seem to indicate that early intervention with antivirals is merely ineffective, but scientists are not telling the whole story. Researchers conducting clinical trials of antivirals and protease inhibitors consistently refuse to report the effects of these compounds on CD8 cytotoxic lymphocytes. It is well known that these important cells help control HIV and the opportunistic infections that kill people with AIDS, and that elevated levels of CD8s have been associated with long-term AIDS survival. AZT, it has been documented, suppresses the ability of these important cells to proliferate. Refusal of researchers to be forthcoming with about antiviral destruction of CD8 cells, coupled with the possibility of severe side effects, should be of great concern. Rather than be seduced by the false promises of early intervention marketing schemes including toxic antiviral combinations, people recently diagnosed with HIV should educate themselves. Their focus should be on proper nutrition, lifestyle changes, using non-toxic compounds to enhance cell-mediated immune functions, and treating symptoms of HIV as they arise. ▼

LETTERS

Castro Street blues

Scott Sproat of Walnut Creek (Letters, 8/17) is "very dismayed about the decay of the Polk Street area" (rightly so), but he states, "We haven't let the Castro Street area decline" - I'm not so sure. I am very disheartened about Castro Street. I see a street that has become increasingly dirty and smelly with more and more homeless and panhandlers. I see faded and tattered Gay Flags on only half the street. It is no longer inviting and charming.

I am very upset about the influx of chain stores - I hope the old Crown Books becomes a body care/sunglass combination store because we certainly need more of them! I am outraged at the increased rents that are forcing two independent delis to close (I guess people who opposed Noah's Bagels were right - besides, the AHP feels as if it is 15 years too late).

Now the F line is coming (what fun we can have with some double entendres) and will be bringing in tourists to gawk at gays and lesbians holding hands and kissing all year round and not just at Halloween. Maybe we should all move out to a new neighborhood and start over (many have), but then where will AHP be after all their hard work.

I think we should boycott any chain store that opens in the Castro. I want to support independently owned (preferably gay, or gay friendly at least) stores that will give the Castro a distinct flavor and will not be found any other place in town. Soon there will be no difference between 24th Street, Union Street, Fillmore Street or Chestnut St., etc., and anything you can buy in one place you can buy in another. Maybe we can even get the F line tourists into the boycott - don't buy it here if you can buy it at the other end of the line! I like the sign in the new Candyland store, "Independently and Gay Owned." I hope to see more of that in the Castro.

The Castro would certainly be a different place if so many of us had not or are not dying, but we can still take pride in our street and make it our street, distinct from any place else in the City.

Peter DiGiulio
San Francisco

Rue Castro

With all the recent discussions on the fate of Castro Street, can you bear one more? Upon visiting San Francisco twice a year since the mid-'80s, I feel I have a unique perspective in that changes are less subtle to one who doesn't live near Rue Castro full time.

The past two years I've seen a noticeable drop in foot traffic. Even the bars that were always packed for happy hour seem to attract no more than a dozen people. (The one bar I do favor, however, keeps a full house and a lively crowd.) The two weeks I spent during July and August found many of the shops empty of shoppers, and I suspect that the only times sales are up are during the parade and street fair weeks, when tourists arrive.

Perhaps with some study, an incentive to return consumers to Castro can be found.

Ron Sapp
Dover, Delaware

Bigger isn't always better

Thank you for publishing the article on the monstrous project proposed for the top of Sanchez Hill (B.A.R., August 17). Many readers are perhaps unaware of the assault on the Castro neighborhood (and on many other neighborhoods) by real estate developers. The current Planning Commission (all Jordan appointees) is very pro-development and is routinely disregarding the Residential Design Guidelines passed six years ago (Proposition M) by the people of San Francisco.

Recently, on our street (near Castro) a project was approved for two buildings, each of which will be more than twice the size of any existing building on the block. When we took our case to the Commission on a discretionary review, we were told the project would "enhance" the neighborhood. A similar project was rejected by the last Planning Commission as being far out of character with the neighborhood. We had twelve neighbors speak for reducing the size of the project; the developer, a Mr. Joy (the developer who gave us Eureka Gardens), only had Joe O'Donoghue (from the Trade Unions) give an incoherent statement about how shade and view-blockage was a given in the city's development.

I urge as many people as can to attend the meeting on the Sanchez Hill Project (call 647-9980 for information). This Commission is completely insensitive to the values of neighborhood preservation, and no neighborhood is more vulnerable (or desirable) than the Castro. Developers know this and are proposing projects that will permanently change our neighborhoods as we know them. Already, developers are once more demolishing one-family houses in the Richmond to build multi-unit buildings (the very act that caused Prop M to pass in the first place). As far as our neighborhood is concerned, the present Planning Commission is seven good reasons not to re-elect Frank Jordan for mayor. And we would like to know where Roberta Achtenberg stands on this issue of the (much ignored) Neighborhood Design Guidelines.

Name withheld by request
San Francisco

Frank's vision

In the face of such great odds Mayor Jordan has sincerely tried to improve the quality of life here in San Francisco. He has shown principle in his defense of the needle exchange and the medicinal use of marijuana in San Francisco. These programs have saved lives and enhanced the lives of people living with HIV and cancer. Frank Jordan has risen above demagoguery to exhibit vision and compassion for which he should be commended.

Dennis Peron
Director, Californians for Compassionate Use
Founder, SF Cannabis Buyers Club

The Achtenberg miracle

As a relative newcomer to San Francisco, and as a veteran of a few too many quixotic political battles in Chicago, the candidacy of Roberta Achtenberg seems practically miraculous. Here's a progressive with a proven record of accomplishment, both as assistant secretary for fair housing at HUD, and as an extremely effective, responsive San Francisco supervisor. Her commitment to environmental protection is unmatched by any of the other candidates, and, unlike some of the others, she isn't beholden to party hacks and corporate lobbyists. Equally important, she can be depended upon to continue to advance the interests of our community, because, dare I say it, she's "one of us." This is a candidate we can depend on.

Given her record, her commitment, her proven effectiveness, and her independence, we have an unparalleled opportunity to elect the best, not just the best-connected, candidate for mayor, and send a message to the Right that we stand by one of our own. We also have the chance to let lesbians and gay men in places like Chicago know that we can (and will) speak for ourselves, rather than through others. We can't afford to let that opportunity pass us by.

Steve Diller
San Francisco

Dole's astounding act

The news that Senator Bob Dole returned a contribution from the Log Cabin Republican Club because he disagrees with them about lesbian and gay issues is astounding to this Republican. Will he likewise return all contributions from those with whom he has any disagreement on any issue? Or is it merely just this particular issue, i.e. being lesbian and gay in this society?

We can take this a step further. If Dole does become President, will he return the taxes paid by homosexuals? By his apparent reasoning, that would be "tainted" money as well. Of course, the number of self-declared lesbians and gays would surely skyrocket!

This Republican, Ben L. Hom, welcomes lesbian and gay people - in fact, all people - to the Republican Party. We have too much to do in San Francisco and America to exclude anybody from anything. I welcome all lesbians and gays to the Republican Party.

The voice of this particular community is crucial to the development of solid policy. And the capabilities, talents, and contributions are equally important, and should be welcomed, not scorned.

As a Chinese-American, I have personally faced the ugliness of discrimination. In fact, it continues today, even here in San Francisco, from time to time. But I am not disheartened, and I hope you will not be disheartened either.

Let's build a new Republican Party that includes all Americans, starting right here in San Francisco. Let's remember that the Republican Party is the party of Abraham Lincoln, and that it's supposed to be the party of inclusion, not exclusion! We have too much work to do. Let's get started!

Ben L. Hom
San Francisco

R-e-s-p-e-c-t

I am writing in response to James Talley's letter "Prejudice in the community" in B.A.R.'s August 10 edition.

I understand that there is a lot of prejudice in the gay community. There is more in various cities throughout the U.S. than in the Greater Bay Area.

In January, I moved here with a black lover from Dallas (I am white). As an interracial couple, I saw a lot of people look at us as freaks. This was in both white and black bars. I couldn't believe that this would happen in San Francisco.

Since my now ex-lover and I have gone our separate ways, I have gone to two bars in Oakland and one in San Francisco, black bars. The customers' response was, "We don't want whites in our bar."

Prejudice of black-on-white is as strong as it is white-on-black.

I will not apologize to anyone that I'm attracted to black men. I just hope people, especially the gay community, will understand that people are attractive to different people. All it boils down to is respecting people. The gay community everywhere is still lacking in that department.

Doug Christoff
San Francisco

"[I thought I needed a doctor,
I really needed a teacher
...a collaborator.]"

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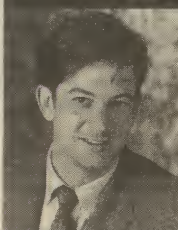
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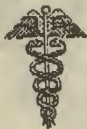
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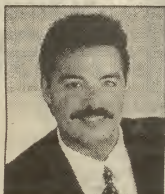
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LETTERS

PAWS bounces back

In response to "SF Model-RIP" by Michael C. Botkin ("Queer Watch," June 29), we would like to share with your readers some of the tremendous progress in both the volunteer and client areas that Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) has made in the past year alone.

First, as volunteers, we are a group of highly dedicated and committed individuals from both the homosexual and heterosexual community living throughout the Bay Area. We receive no enticements, remuneration, or other incentives for our work, and quite frankly such an approach would be insulting. The fact is, PAWS is a nearly 100 percent volunteer driven organization, and more individuals are becoming volunteers each day.

In support of your article, we do agree that, like all non-profit organizations, a period of hard times was created, but also weathered by PAWS, due in no small part to the extraordinary efforts by the board of directors, and the extremely committed volunteer base. For well over a year, PAWS has not been in the financial position to accept new clients, but even that is now changing. Thanks primarily to the unrelenting efforts of Client Services Volunteer Betsy Aaronson and our current executive director, Sherry Richert, we are now beginning to accept new clients from our waiting list.

We do have a new board of directors at PAWS, but it was replaced individual by individual, and there has not been a period of time that PAWS was without a governing body to maintain all necessary operations. The current board members not only manage the activities of PAWS, but they also provide a great deal of individual financial and programmatic support. For example, we have board members who are licensed veterinarians that provide PAWS with low cost, or in some instances no charge, animal exams, medicines, and medical procedures. The focus is on the welfare of the client, the welfare of the animal, and the human-animal bond in relation to people with AIDS.

Your article seems to imply that PAWS is in a good, if not strong, financial position, and that we were able to survive the recent downturn because of this financial strength. The truth is that PAWS derives 100 percent of its financial support from private donations, product sales such as shirts, caps and pet collars, and various fundraising activities such as Macy's Passport Day. We receive no support from any federal, state, or local governmental bodies of any kind, and needless to say, expenditures are monitored very carefully. We are also very proactive in maintaining the level of supplies donations that have always been the core benefit that PAWS offers, such as dog food, cat food and cat litter, just to name a few.

Your article closes with a statement that "the SF Model is dead as a doornail." If you will truly miss what the model represented for you, then we encourage you to come join our efforts in action. Only when you actively give back to the community and serve those you claim to support will you also be able to prevent the demise of a way of life that you have come to expect. Actively working to support these programs and models is the difference between those who read articles about possible program closures, and those who actually prevent the closures from taking shape in the first place.

Greg Betlan

On behalf of the PAWS Volunteer
Advisory Board

Piercing response

In response to Laura L. Post and Judith Avery's self-centered and completely ungrateful letter ("Piercing questions," 8/24), please allow Gauntlet to respond. These two women came into our store, as they stated, and requested that we help them in a survey they were conducting. Being that they were members of our Community and professional people, we consented to allow their questionnaires to be voluntarily filled out by customers.

We did not, however, consent to making their project a long-term commitment! I think two months is quite a sufficient length of time to expect our busy staff people to have to be concerned with their questionnaires. Personally, I think the tone of their letter says much of what has to be said. Gauntlet helped them, as a favor, for two full months, and all they were able to respond with was a nasty letter to the Community? Maybe if their own attitudes were a little more pleasant and the words "thank you" and "we appreciate your help" came out of their mouths, we may have continued to offer their surveys to people. It would be nice if Ms. Post and Ms. Avery would take their feet out of their own mouths long enough to verbalize some of the social graces!

Ms. Post and Ms. Avery need to know that the world owes them nothing and even when one "depends on the kindness of strangers," thank you is a very nice thing to say.

By the way, if the boxes were no longer accessible to our customers, then there were obviously no filled-out surveys, so their deepest apologies to those people who may have filled out their questionnaires was a really bad attempt at slapping the people who tried to help them.

Irwin Kane

Vice President, Gauntlet International

The trial of Bishop Righter

[The following letter was sent to The Right Reverend Edmond E. Browning, Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church of America:]

Dear Bishop Browning:

We were most distressed to read that more than 25 percent of the 297 Episcopal bishops agreed to the trial of The Right Reverend Bishop (retired) Walter Righter for his support of gays and lesbians in the church.

We are blessed and proud to be members of an Episcopal parish that is inclusive. Though our efforts, many un-churched gays and lesbians have come to our parish seeking to hear the gospel. Many have remained. Other have moved on to other parishes or denominations in the search for God's truth.

The action now being taken to sanction Bishop Righter can only hurt those of us who see our church as inclusive, open, loving and forgiving.

More importantly, it puts a roadblock to those un-churched gays and lesbians seeking their spiritual way. This action says to them: No, the Episcopal Church is not for you! Hardly words we would expect to hear from Jesus Christ. Are not His words "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:13,14 RSV) more applicable here?

It is with great disappointment that we find ourselves as Episcopalians and as Christians associated with this action.

William and Carole Tripp
San Francisco

Hooray for the Bishops

Cheers to the Bishops who bring Bishop Walter Righter to trial for ordaining an openly gay man to the priesthood. This action will force the Episcopal Church out of the closet on the issue of gay/lesbian rights. We have Bishops who ordain openly homosexual people but fail to make public statements in support of human rights for gays. We have Deans of Cathedrals who hire gay and lesbian clergy and never utter a word of public support for homosexual rights. We have homosexual Bishops who are in the closet about their own orientation. I note that one of them was a signer on the presentment of Bishop Righter.

We have clergy who regularly bless the relationships of same sex couples and are sidetracked in their career advancement. Gay and lesbian clergy who have small churches now, never get an opportunity to go to larger, more influential parishes. We have a lavender ceiling in the church.

It will be exciting to see the many Bishops who have ordained openly gay/lesbians stand tall supporting Bishop Righter. It will be wonderful for the closeted gay Bishops to come forward and proclaim their solidarity with Bishop Righter, although I won't hold my breath.

So hooray for those conservative Bishops who force the church to be honest. The trial will settle many issues now held ambiguously.

Robert Warren Crome
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church
San Francisco

Gay and Lesbian Archives

I visited a friend the other day to drop off some chocolate and vanilla flavored stuff that he needs to drink so he can keep his weight and strength up. He was going through his boxes of photos, and to my horror was ripping up pictures that he didn't want his mom and the rest of the family to deal with after he died. There were shredded photos of his first lover from the late '60s, shots of other loves and other friends, at home parties, at early Gay Pride Parades, on vacations out in the real world, having a good time in spite of the side glances and looks and finger-pointing and whispers from some pretty strange folks from strange places somewhere in the good old U.S. of A.

There on the floor, in shreds, was not only his past but part of our past, our history as gay men and women, as homosexuals. I asked him to stop ripping and listen for a moment. I said that there was a safe place to put his photos and writings and letters of love. I told him he could leave them to the Gay and Lesbian Center Archives in his will, or he could call Jim Van Buskirk at 415-557-4566 for more information. Jim works with the San Francisco Public Library, Gay and Lesbian Center Archives.

To everyone else I ask that you consider donating your own stuff, your letters and photos, or a friend's things who has passed away. And do it now while you still remember whose face is in them. Please don't destroy the past. Save it for the future. So that the next generations will be able to see where we came from.

Peter S. Groubert
San Francisco

Tanks a lot

I never dreamed I'd see the words "Pat Sajak" and "think tank" in the same sentence, much less in a headline! Yes, folks, this world is in trouble!

D.G. Hayes
Alameda

WAYNE FRIDAY



The newly appointed executive board of Out on the Island, Alameda's community action group for gay and lesbian residents and their supporters, halted their constant activity long enough to have this photo taken. From left to right, they are: Vice Presidents Allan Shore and Christine Allen, Corresponding Secretary Rose Mireles, President Kathy Teller, Treasurer Greg Alves; Executive Secretary Allen Pemberton, Parliamentarian/Sergeant-At-Arms Christa Keller, and Vice President Kelly Stemple. Anyone interested in joining should call (510) 337-1300.

Negative feelings

A few months ago, I was sitting at a table at the Twin Peaks bar when one of the three young men seated at the table next to mine politely inquired, "Aren't you Wayne Friday?" Upon my affirmative, the guy told me that he had read my column for a long time and often wondered why I seldom wrote about the AIDS epidemic.

I told him that I intentionally had left AIDS stories to others on the Bay Area Reporter staff who

Commentary

were better qualified to write them. This person then told me that he and his friends had just come from an HIV-negative support group meeting, and asked if I was interested in doing a column on them. After ten minutes of these guys telling me how "tough" it is emotionally being HIV negative, I couldn't believe what I was hearing, and excused myself and left the bar.

I had heard that such a support group existed, and I think I even actually received something in the mail about them. However, I had pretty much dismissed the group in my own mind as being little more than a bunch of selfish, self-centered, "pure" gay men.

Then last Sunday I pick up the *Examiner* to read a front-page story about "help for gays who feel guilty over being healthy [HIV-negative]." The article revealed that some "healthy ones" are so racked by "guilt and grief" that they go to extremes to hide their negative status.

The *Ex* story quotes Tom Moon, a "gay San Francisco psychotherapist," explaining that "it's the HIV-negative taboo. It comes across like advocating support groups for white men, as if we are saying the most privileged need help." Well, you said it, doctor; I didn't, though I couldn't agree with you more. Dr. Moon goes on to say that he and others are launching a formal private program this month to "grapple" with the social and psychological issues involved in being both gay and HIV-negative.

The feature says that the new program, dubbed the Invention Project, has won the endorsement of AIDS groups and is designed to prevent the further spread of the virus. That's fine; I'm all for preventing further AIDS cases, but where the hell have you been the past decade or so if you still need to be taught how to prevent the spread of this disease? I dare say that anyone over the age of 14 must know by now how it's contracted. Must we have more "edu-

cational" programs when the moneys are so badly needed to take care of those already infected and for research that, hopefully, will one day find a cure?

One Invention founder whined to the *Examiner*, "We [the HIV-free gay men] are told we should feel lucky, we should thank God," but then complains that "we are expected to be on the sidelines in a family with a sick child, to go about our business because the focus needs to be on the sick child, but we are all suffering."

It's not enough that we have to care for those sick and dying of AIDS; we are now expected to feel sorry (and spend badly-needed AIDS funds) on those lucky enough to have escaped the virus. Sorry, folks, but this is where I get off. Like most of us, I have given my dollars when I could afford to (and often when I could not) to more AIDS groups than I can possibly remember. Now we learn that the Stop AIDS Project, the SF AIDS Foundation, and even the city's financially strapped Department of Health are using money needed to help the truly ill to sponsor things like "negative socials," featuring trips to Angel Island and "Bette Davis movie fests," to help HIV-negative men.

The *Ex* also quotes a gay man who happens to be the coordinator of lesbian and gay services for the city's Department of Public Health, saying that "some gay men have lost the sense that it is important for them to stay negative. They see HIV-positive men living longer lives of quality. ... It seems to have eroded the sense of the importance of staying negative. We've done so much to care for HIV-positive men; they have access to a lot of services, social support. It has caused some HIV-negative men to feel disenfranchised, to believe that there are advantages to being positive - more services, more social support."

Bullshit! I know a lot of sick gay men who would gladly trade places with those "afflicted" with good health. Is this guy so selfish as to begrudge the "services" and "social support" to men and women who have been handed a death sentence? Feeling disenfranchised? Get over it.

I find it impossible to feel sorry for those who have been fortunate enough to escape this plague, and further, I have an even tougher time understanding what the hell it is they are so unhappy about. Forgive me, but I am too damned worried about how long 40 or so of my sick friends have to live than to care about the selfish HIV-negative queens who, hopefully, can look forward to a long, productive life.

Politics and people

Ha! Stand-up comic turned TV star Ellen DeGeneres's new book, *My Point...and I Do Have One*, has passed Newt Gingrich's *To Renew America on the New York Times* bestseller list after only four days of sales.

Money, the mother's milk of politics? Oil companies, teachers, lawyers, and other special interest groups spent a whopping \$31.3 million lobbying our legislators in Sacramento the first three months of this year.

The big star, right up there with Hillary Clinton, at this week's Non-Governmental Organization Forum on Women in Beijing was 74-year-old feminist leader Betty Friedan. Women from all over the world scammed to greet her, get her autograph, and tell her of the impact her 1974 book *The Feminine Mystique* has had on their lives. I once had cocktails with Friedan in the lounge of a hotel here a few years back, and she left the half-dozen of us who had spent a couple of hours with her totally spellbound - foul mouth, good humor, and all.

How about that Las Vegas teenager who police say found a recipe for methamphetamine on the Internet and was arrested after his mother discovered him cooking chemicals on a hot plate in his bedroom? Aw, Mom. Don't be a fink. You should be proud of such an enterprising youngster.

The talk within the Beltway about an Independent Colin Powell/Bill Bradley (or vice versa) ticket next year has given rise to speculation that Bob Dole may offer the veep spot to Powell before the GOP Convention, so as, to help him get the nod in San Diego next August.

Mayoral candidates confirmed for the Mayoral Forum on HIV/AIDS on Wednesday, September 13, at the Unitarian Center (1187 Franklin at Geary) include Mayor Jordan, Supervisor Alioto, Assemblyman Brown and Roberta Achtenberg. Call 487-3056 or 487-3097 for more info.

Big party tonight at the Hilton for Glide Church's famed resident poet Jan Mirikitani, honoring her 30 years at Glide. The fundraiser dinner for Jan, Reverend Cecil Williams's wife, will also be a celebration in honor of Glide's women, youth and children's programs, and will feature an appearance by world famous poet Maya Angelou, long a friend of Glide's. ▼



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SAPPHISTICATION

The third shoe

by Beth Elliott

Early on, at the dawn of Sapphistication, I wrote about sex and rock 'n' roll. Since then, I'm sure some of you have been waiting for the other shoe to drop. (Wait - that makes three shoes. It's the mutant metaphor from outer space, *arrrrgggh!*) That is, you were correct if you thought my getting around to writing about drugs was inevitable. After all, they say to write about what you know...

This country's relationship to drugs (including alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine) is so quintessentially American that it would be fascinating were it not so tragically schizoid. Disfavored substances, rather than misuse or addiction, are portrayed as evil (Demon Rum, the weed with its roots in

(among sellers of addictive drugs? Yeah, right!). Government and business funding rehabilitation programs would be much easier on our wallets - not to mention our Bill of Rights - than the Jones Tax. "War on Drugs?" Hell no, I won't go!

It makes me sad to see lesbians smoke cigarettes. I can't see wasting being addicted on such a useless drug (not that I find any drug worth addiction), and I hate to see friends do to their bodies what smoking cigarettes does. I also wish more of the places I like to go were smoke-free - I believe in cigarette smoking among consenting adults in private.

Still, while I fault the tobacco industry for targeting teenagers, there's something about Clinton's recent rumblings on the subject that makes me nervous. I have this nightmare of other drugs decriminalized, only to see tobacco take their place as a banned substance. Can't we do better than just switch bootlegging opportunities?

Speaking of sin taxes, can we keep in mind there's a limit to how much something can be taxed before bootlegging becomes profitable? Or before those taxed rebel? (Remember taxes and the American Revolution, kids? Soaking the rich has limitations as a social policy, and isn't as easy as it sounds.)

Oscar Wilde said all things are best in moderation - including moderation. I say lesbian pride means loving ourselves enough to make wise choices: neither abusing nor depriving our bodies and minds. As Diane diMassa says, you're far too exquisite to do yourself in.

Wrath of Math

Before signing off, I simply must share my elation at having been dished by Mara Math in the letters column (August 24). Elation, because of the company - of those she's walked away from - in which that puts me. I think getting trashed by Mara Math means you've arrived or something. Some of her sarcasm was weak, but most of it was well-executed and entertaining.

Ms. Math took me to task for failing to respect Tommi Avicelli Mecca's career as an activist (which may indeed be a distinguished one) and over her inference that the only good ideas on California and the Bay Area's future come from homegrown residents. "Good ideas know no borders," she said, and on that I agree.

I continue to believe, however, that California natives have a better perspective on population, water, environmental, and planning issues. Many of us have seen California's population more than triple in our lifetimes and have tracked the impact on quality of life. We acknowledge that we're beyond carrying capacity and incapable of providing for every person who wants to come here and demand services (if public benefits were reserved for local poor, homeless, etc., they could possibly be sufficient within Prop. 13 limitations). Mr. Mecca, a recent transplant, advocates continued exhaustion of the goose that laid the golden eggs by anyone from anywhere, on demand. This can arguably be construed as colonialism, and Mecca and Math as carpetbaggers.

Sure, good ideas know no borders - but I thought Tommi Avicelli Mecca's sucked. ▼

Commentary

hell, etc.), while use of licit substances too often reflects the American notion that if a little is good, a lot is great! Licit substances are associated with economic productivity, or the managing of emotions and metabolism to get one through the work day. Illicit substances got linked to the threat of danger from hopped-up minorities to accomplish their banning.

The either/or approach to drugs is just as prevalent in the lesbian community. For all the social drinkers and women not into alcohol I know, I often feel surrounded by party-hardy girls and ex-party-hardy, now clean-and-sober girls. While I'm happy to support my clean-and-sober friends (that one's a no-brainer), the paucity of moderate drinkers (and dopers) distresses me. We could do with a bell curve here instead of a wide-spread inability to use consciousness-altering substances sparingly, judiciously, and with respect. And so, I'm left with a number of mostly unrelated questions.

Why do so many people with bumper stickers reading "D.A.R.E. to keep kids off drugs" drive like they're on them? Why do so many people pissed off at Jesse Helms smoke cigarettes, in effect paying for his re-election campaign? Why are so many of today's drug-dealing gangsters wasting their profits on flash instead of buying into legitimate businesses and sending their children to the best schools? Haven't they learned from the upward mobility tactics of other ethnic groups in previous generations? When is this community going to wake up and realize that "Speed Kills" is a deadly accurate slogan? And when, oh when, are people going to realize prohibition didn't work the first time around, that all it did was generate the kind of violence our cities suffer today?

Wasteful war

Though my mistrust of business (and my desire to see business and government each provide a check against the abuse of power by the other) keeps me from registering Libertarian, I take a libertarian position right down the line when it comes to drug use. Let people take their own risks with their own bodies and minds. The real harm to society from drugs is the pandemic burglary and robbery that finance habits and the violence over turf and honor

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Happy and gay at work and play

by Kent Bradley

Management consultant **Brian R. McNaught** has one of the more interesting jobs in America today: teaching corporations how to combat workplace discrimination, particularly against lesbian and gay employees.

You may have caught McNaught at Moscone Center last year, conducting a diversity workshop for AT&T; he gives dozens of workshops like that one across America each year, based on real situations and real people. More than mere training sessions, they give audiences an honest look at real life as lived by gays and lesbians every day.



Brian R. McNaught

Now with 20 years of experience in diversity training, McNaught has moved to New York City, where he is designer and presenter of two corporate level workshops, "Homophobia in the Workplace" and "Managing Gay and Lesbian Issues in the Workplace." He is also featured in four critically acclaimed educational videos and has authored two books, *Gay Issues in the Workplace* (1993) and *On Being Gay - Thoughts on Family, Faith, and Love* (1988).

McNaught, who thinks the real battle for gay rights is raging outside the headlines in everyday situations at work and home, is changing how straight people see gay men and lesbians - and driving the leadership of the radical right up the wall in the process. As an Irish Catholic Southerner from an affluent home and a cultivated background, McNaught looks like one of them; he talks their language (he was a prize-winning Catholic journalist and columnist before coming out); and it is therefore easier for him to debunk their claims of a gay "lifestyle" and a gay "agenda."

He says every heterosexual employee should separate religious beliefs from professional conduct; and all gay, lesbian, and bisexual workers should come out (if they can) and organize a gay employee resource group, and network with other employee groups. He also says every employer should provide fair and equitable benefit packages for all employees. Most do not.

McNaught, who earned his B.A. in journalism from Marquette University, is certified by the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists as a sexuality educator. He has received the Margaret Sanger Award from the Institute for Family Research and Education at Syracuse University and the Mary Lee Tatum Award from Planned Parenthood for his contributions to the public's understanding of homosexuality.

Write to **Brian R. McNaught** at 111 West 67th Street, Suite 40A, New York NY 10023.

What's on TV?

Gay television can also be said to contribute to the public's understanding of homosexuality. And in the case of the popular local cable program *Lavender Lounge*, it

must be doing it successfully: the latest word is that the independent program will sign a lease for the space next door to its current facility (located at 1044 Folsom at Sixth in the city), doubling its space.

LL will be reverting to its original format of "cable TV's queer *American Bandstand*" in its new fall season, according to **Mark Kleim**, sole proprietor of Lavender Productions. But as it goes back, it also goes forward: Kleim said the show will soon broadcast entire episodes (sound and moving pictures) over the Internet using CU-SeeMe software.

Kleim is searching for male and female go-go dancers to appear on *Lavender Lounge's* new/old broadcast format, in four episodes to be taped this Sunday, September 10 and next Sunday, September 17 (from 5 to 9 p.m. each day). Dancers should bring two outfits to the studio, and should be aware no pay is involved.

This year in Israel

Here's a unique opportunity for travel fans: the **United Jewish Appeal** has scheduled a trip to **Israel**, specifically geared towards the American gay and lesbian community, for December 18 to 27. The trip will include meeting with members of the Society for the Protection of Person Rights, the Israel AIDS Task Force, and the Israel Names Project.

The group will visit the Old City of Jerusalem, soak up atmosphere in ancient Old Jaffa, enjoy the culture and nightlife of Tel Aviv, help plant a tree in the Lahay Forest, and meet with Knesset member **Yael Dayan**, outspoken daughter of the equally tough General Moïse Dayan.

The cost for the nine-day trip is \$2,500, with a departure from New York.

Contact **Alan Swislow** at the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco (415) 512-6265, or **Jeffrey Janis** in the UJA Western Region Office at (818) 386-6970. ▽

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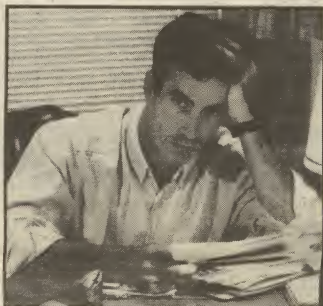
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for morning services. *Tickets will not be available at the
door. Please call 861-6932 to secure your tickets.*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Drive for Gay Books in S.C. County High Schools

by Marv. Shaw

Help is on the way for youth who are questioning their sexual orientation or are already self-identified as gay but feel they must remain closeted, the B.A.R. learned from Marty Grimes in a recent interview at ARIS (AIDS Resources, Information and Services) in San Jose. Grimes is a leader in the Visibility subcommittee of the Santa Clara County Task Force on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth, which was launched by Mike Honda, a Supervisor on the Santa Clara County Board.

The help is in the form of a campaign called "Adopt a School," which aims to get donations for the purchase of books and other media directly influencing the welfare of gay and lesbian students in Santa Clara County high schools. These resources would be purchased for high schools' libraries and would be carefully selected to reach the task force's overall objective: "To promote the physical and emotional well being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, both self-identified and questioning."

"Many youth who are struggling with their sexual identity have no one to talk to, no one they can trust. These isolated teenagers may find encouragement through

library books," stated Andrew Gans, Co-Chair of the Task Force.

"Because many of the schools would like to develop such resources but have little or no funds to purchase them, 'Adopt a School' will bring them the materials they need," Grimes explained.

The committee has in mind an ideal package, which could be bought for \$100: ten books, the video *Gay Youth*, and some posters promoting a positive gay identity. Grimes suggested that some dealing would probably have to be evolved to get the proposed package for \$100. Also, while such a gift from individuals would be gratefully accepted, gay and gay-sympathetic groups are cordially invited to participate.

Selection will be made using for guidelines a similar list already being used in Contra Costa County schools, Grimes added. To avoid any possible public objection to such additions to schools' libraries, such as happened in Morgan Hill a couple of years ago, procedures would be carefully calculated to begin in those schools and districts where initial acceptance has already been seen as present.

The most probable districts would be the larger ones in which supportive staff has already been ascertained and acceptance is

greater. Grimes cited Fremont High School District and Independence High School in the East Side Unified District as examples.

Fifteen agencies and organizations, ranging from BANGLE (Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators) through PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, Department of Family and Children's Services, are all supportive of the "Adopt a School" campaign.

Another promotion with additional goals will be held at the DeFrank Center on October 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by *OutNOW*, it will feature video producer Pam Walton and a variety of workshops. ▼

Contributions to "Adopt a School" should be sent in checks made out to PFLAG (which has accepted the responsibility of fiscal agency) and sent to the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 175 Stockton Ave, San Jose CA 95126. Information can be secured by calling Marty Grimes at (408) 293-2747, ext. 105, or Andrew Gans, (408) 885-7707.

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A 'preventative' negative light

by Al Kiewasser

The August 30th *CBS Evening News* carried a report on the first day of school in Merrimack, New Hampshire, where the local school board has imposed an absolute ban on discussing, distributing, or teaching anything that might present homosexuality "in a positive light." The CBS correspondent covering the story interviewed a gay teenager, as well as homophobic parents and school board members, to gain their perspective on what could be the strictest censorship code of its kind.

One school board member who backed the ban was asked if, in her experience, information about homosexuality had ever harmed Merrimack's school children. When she answered "no," the reporter asked her why, then, did she think this new ban was needed?

"Why take vitamins?" the woman replied. "It's preventative."

A local father was also interviewed, who claimed that providing children with information about homosexuality amounted to "promoting" the "lifestyle" and would be the equivalent of "sending alcoholics to the local bar." A gay teen — who had come under fire for wanting to list lesbian/gay resources in his school paper — made the sane counterpoint that information is hardly promotion.

While CBS News focused much-needed attention on a national disgrace, this otherwise-competent segment was marred by the reporter's closing comment. Of the Merrimack controversy, he concluded: "What's not in dispute is that this issue is diverting attention away from the schools' primary mission: Education."

Providing fair and accurate information about sexual orientation is education. The fight against homophobic censorship is not a diversion from the mission of our schools; it is the enactment of public education's primary goal — a search for truth.

Direct feedback to Eric Ober, President, CBS News, 524 W. 57th Street, New York NY 10019, tel. 212-975-4321, fax 212-975-1519 (Eric Ober) or 212-975-2115 (CBS Evening News).

Flight of fancy

The premiere episode of *The Crew* aired August 31st, and the promising new program is one of several Fall series that include a continuing lesbian or gay character. The situation in this particular comedy centers on the lives and laughs of four young flight attendants, one of whom is gay ... or "heterosexually challenged," in the words of a straight colleague.

In the opening episode, Paul is set up as the object of numerous snipes from his straight cohorts. It appears, however, that he will be able to trade barbs with the best of them. Additionally, this comedy is not without a conscientious fringe. For example, in one scene Paul celebrates a birthday with his coworkers. He explains that he discovered he was gay as a Cub Scout, though his parents knew even earlier — at age seven, in fact, when his father found him serving chocolate cake to Malibu Barbie from his sister's Easy Bake Oven. This comic picture was darkened, however, when Paul added — matter of factly — that his father's reaction was to "smash the oven mitts." A moment of instructive

silence ensued.

The producers of *The Crew* have promised that, over the course of the new television season, Paul will develop into a well-rounded, affirmative character. Of course, only prime time will tell.

Send supportive feedback to Marc Cherry and Jaime Whooten, Producers, *The Crew*, c/o FOX Broadcasting, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills CA 90213; copy your correspondence to Chase Carey, President, FOX Broadcasting, at the same address, tel. 310-277-2211, e-mail foxnet@delphi.com.

Kids' stuff

In the September 1995 issue of *Child* magazine, psychologist Alex Packer offers "straight answers to kid's tough questions" about sex. Fortunately, Packer's answers are straight but not narrow.

In his cover story ("Everything Your Kids Want to Know About Sex ... And Aren't Afraid To Ask"), Packer advises parents to "think of each question your child asks (about sex) as a great opportunity to convey your values and to help her feel loved, well-informed, and encouraged to express herself." The bulk of Packer's article recommends sex-positive answers to several common questions, asked by children "from infancy through the preteen years." These questions range from "Mommy, how did I get inside you?" to "Daddy, what's a condom?"

Included on Packer's list of questions is: "Why are those men kissing?" The author reminds parents that "homosexuality is bound to come up as your child listens in on conversations, observes people around him, and deals with his own emerging sexuality." Packer further suggests: "Speak empathetically about homosexuality, and you'll foster tolerance in your child and counter society's anti-homosexual messages." He also advises parents to tell their children that "if you grow up to be gay, I will love you as much as I do now."

Billed as "The Essential Guide for Today's Parents," *Child* is a monthly, mainstream magazine carried by newsstands around the country. *Child* attracts a number of major advertisers, including Fisher-Price (Mattel, Inc.), Johnson & Johnson, and the Nickelodeon cable network (Viacom International, Inc.).

Compliment *Child's* mature journalism and encourage future articles dealing specifically with homosexuality and homophobia. Contact Pamela Abrams, Editor-in-Chief, *Child* magazine, 110 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10011, e-mail childmag@aol.com. As usual, the magazine's advertisers are likely targets for homophobic censorship groups; contact John W. Amerman, Chair, Mattel, Inc., 333 Continental Blvd., El Segundo CA 90245, tel. 310-524-2000, fax 310-524-2896; Ralph S. Larsen, Chair, Johnson & Johnson, One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 08933, tel. 908-524-0400 or 800-635-6789, fax 908-246-7409; Summer M. Redstone, Chair, Viacom International, Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York NY 10036, tel. 212-258-6000, fax 212-258-6100.

Giving 'til it hurts

The press has treated Bob Dole's homophobia as something of a surprise, expressing a sort of editorial shock over the presidential candidate's recent decision to refuse queer money. These media can hardly be blamed, however, since it was a group of gay Republicans — the Log Cabin Club — that actually thought Bigot Bob might make good use of their \$1000 donation. In fact, the nation's major newspapers merit certain praise for their take on Dole's decision to return the Log Cabin check.

The check was returned with the explanation, from Dole campaign press secretary Nelson Warfield, that "Our policy is to decline contributions from political groups that have an agenda that is in opposition to Senator Dole's positions on the issues." The *Boston Globe* was quick to point out that Dole is not only a homophobe, but a hypocrite. In an August 29th editorial ("Dole's Unhappy Return"), the *Globe* pointed out that "Dole has not returned campaign contributions to Time Warner even though he deprecates the 'nightmares of depravity' in the entertainment industry. He has not returned money to the National Rifle Association, or ripped up his membership card, even though he does not support that organization's description of federal agents as 'jackbooted government thugs.'"

Columnist Debra Saunders, writing in the (Republican-identified) *San Francisco Chronicle*, also condemned Dole's "bunk" excuse ("The Dole Way: If You're Down, Kick A Gay," August 30). She wrote: "If Dole returned checks from everyone with 'an agenda that is in opposition to Senator Dole's positions on the issues,' his campaign would be broke." Saunders also concluded: "When Dole said that he wouldn't take their money, he was telling gay Republicans that they do not belong at the table. You don't say that to citizens in politics, especially if their offense is not what they've done, but who they are."

Finally, an editorial in *The New York Times* ("An Insult To Miss Liberty," August 29) chided Dole's "new fears of being seen as overly sensible." "It is early," the newspaper lamented, "but this has not been a good campaign for symbols of tolerance."

Share your comments with the *Boston Globe*, Box 2378, Boston MA 02170, fax 617-929-2098, e-mail letter@globe.com (letters to the editor) or ombud@globe.com (comments on coverage/Ombudsman); *San Francisco Chronicle*, 901 Mission Street, San Francisco CA 94103, tel. 415-777-1111; *The New York Times*, 229 W. 43rd Street, New York NY 10036, tel. 212-556-1234, fax 212-556-3622.

To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, or to request GLAAD membership information, please call the 24-hour Media Watch Hotline (415-861-4588) or write Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103; Fax 415-861-4893; E-mail glaadsfba@aol.com; World Wide Web <http://www.gaytek.com/gaytek/glaad.html>.

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CALIFORNIA NEWS

Critics: Proposed Curriculum Misses Gay Teen Health Issues

by Mary Ann Swissler

The California State Curriculum Commission has forwarded its final selection of a health curriculum for middle schoolers to the more conservative State Board of Education, which will discuss the matter on September 7 and 8.

The Glenco/McGraw-Hill health curriculum selected by the committee last month does mention gays and lesbians at various points throughout its multimedia product (including books, software, and videos), according to John Lindner, board member of the San Jose-based Billy DeFrank Youth Center, but a solid understanding of gay and lesbian teens' health issues is missing.

"It mentions it in very peripheral ways," Lindner lamented, "but not in the main text."

Jesse Greenman, co-founder of The PERSON Project (formerly Project 21), persuaded the Curriculum Commission to design The Health Framework to include tolerance and dignity of queers, but now fears that effort could be useless in the face of watered-

down state Department of Education equity requirements — and a tepid treatment of the subject in the only curriculum that stands a chance of getting into the hands of seventh and eighth grade teachers and students. (High school texts do not fall under the jurisdiction of subject matter frameworks, according to Curriculum Commission Chair Gene Flores.)

Sex in the classroom

Predictably, the fight could come down to dramatic debates over the rights or wrongs of homosexual acts.

Educational equity activists like Greenman and Lindner have said their main goal is not to include gay issues into K-12 sex education lessons, as many on the Curriculum Commission and State Board of Education believe. State education codes, which require the teaching of "mutual monogamous, heterosexual relationships" would remain in place, according to Greenman. The only difference they have sought is to give teachers permission and the tools to provide lesson plans about gay

relationships as a way to address health issues of queer youth and kids from gay families.

"This has got nothing to do with sex acts. It's more of a minority issue with its own unique set of health issues," said an emphatic Greenman. A documented heightened abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, along with a higher than average rate of high school drop outs, suicide, and running away among queer youth, are legitimate topics that still elude the classroom, she said.

Without institutionalized change they always will, she added.

The problems of the Glenco/McGraw-Hill curriculum are evident in the teen suicide video intended for middle schoolers: it never mentions lesbian and gay teens, despite statistics into the problem that ought to frighten and motivate every educator at the junior high and high school level to confront the problem head-on.

Predictably, according to religious right activists such as Beverly Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition, the issue has everything to do with recruitment into gay sex. During Curriculum Commission hearings in Sacramento in June, Sheldon sternly warned against recommendations found in The Health Framework, a document that was an outgrowth of statewide 1992 public hearings in which both the religious right and the lesbian and gay communities testified in person, by mail, and by fax.

Lindner told the B.A.R. that the state education code for sex education, which practically forbids frank discussions nowadays, is not violated by merely gathering information about families, which he thinks is the best way to handle the topic of homosexuality in the classroom: "If you have families with two dads or two moms, how families are organized is something that should be addressed," he said. "Discussing family structures is not the same as sex education."

"There's nothing in the Health Framework directing publishers to discuss family structure," Lindner said, "but there is language about sexual orientation and different family structures: 'Children from non-traditional families can also develop successfully. Given the variety of non-traditional families in contemporary society it is important that children not reared in two parent families be convinced that their situation can also be conducive to growth and development. Further, it is important that children not be denigrated because of their family living arrangements or the composition of their families.'"

The ripple effect

Unfortunately, Greenman told the B.A.R., "At the same time the State Department of Education says it has a role — to set standards, provide excellent curricula, and exert leadership — they are abdicate their self-professed leadership role."

In letters last May, Board President Marion MacDowell attempted to downplay the Health Framework's effect on the textbooks produced by national text manufacturers. In fact, according to documents reviewed by the B.A.R., companies marketing their programs to the State Commission go to great pains to match up their curriculum packages with nine mandated subject areas expanded upon in the Health Framework. The trends mandated in California have a ripple effect as other states buy the same curricula.

Continued on page 16

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Who Took a Leak on Gay-Positive Education?

by Mary Ann Swissler

When the California State Board of Education meets today and tomorrow in Sacramento to accept or reject a mildly gay-friendly health textbook [see story, page 14], at least one member's mind has already been made up, the B.A.R. has learned.

An extreme right wing newsletter published in Los Angeles, the *Report Card*, excerpted a letter from Robert Kaplan of the PERSON Project (formerly Project 21) to Board President Marion McDowell in an article that holds gay-sensitive education in junior high health class up for ridicule. Since the June 29, 1995 letter was only sent to board members and lesbian State Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, the source was an obvious call to PERSON Project co-founder Jessea Greenman, who said it was a clear case of collusion.

The *Report Card* is produced by the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, the same group who graced the film world with *The Gay Agenda*.

When contacted by the B.A.R., *Report Card* staffperson Ben Boychuk admitted it was "someone" in board member Jerry Hume's office who leaked the letter for the unsigned piece in the July/August 1995 newsletter. Hume could not be reached by presstime.

In then-Project 21's letter to McDowell, Kaplan and Greenman reminded her of the vital role the state board plays in setting the agenda for all curriculums that find their way into the classroom. The *Report Card* article began typically enough by running a headline of "Compulsory Miseducation — Why Don't They Ever Call On The Transgendered Kid?"

When reached by phone in New York by the B.A.R., Robert Kaplan commented, "It's a compliment in certain ways — because it means that my letter pushed some buttons and they see us as a threat."

Kaplan remained more outraged by the content of McDowell's letter, he said, and by "the fact that the president of the State Board of Education is abdicating her responsibility and is basically lying. Of course they have a role. ... That to me is much more upsetting than having the letter leaked," said Kaplan.

Ultimately the leak should offend any gay person, he said, because "the State Board is responsible for the education of all California students ... [and] there's at least one board member who is willing to write off the education of a large segment of the student population. So ethically that bothers me a lot."

"It's not so much that it was leaked, but that it was leaked because they think it's okay to write off queer students; they think it's okay to indoctrinate all students into a particular way of being and relating, which is a heterosexual code."

Everyone has an agenda

Kaplan said he also objects to accusations of politicizing the process, as if it hasn't been that way all along. "Of course we have a political agenda, and they have a political agenda. ... But we're the ones who are trying to get equal education for everyone, and the

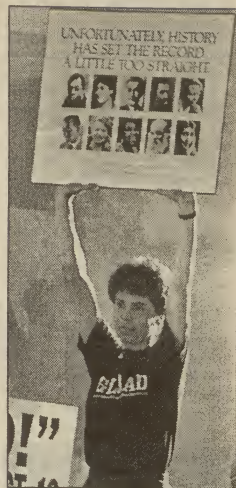
right wing is trying to prevent equal education for everybody."

And while Kaplan realizes the leak did not come from Superintendent Delaine Eastin's office, he couldn't help laying partial blame for the homophobic treatment of gay curriculums on her.

"Supposedly Delaine is this friend of ours," he said, "but she hasn't done anything to be a friend."

But with an anything-goes mentality allowed for Wilson- and Deukmejian-appointed state Board of Education members, however, it would be difficult for the president to effectively pull rank on any of them, according to Eastin spokesperson Susan Lang. "They're all Republicans, they're all appointed by the governor," she said. "These guys are lay people who are beholden to no one. They don't owe anything to anyone."

"As far as opinions, they're allowed to say whatever they want to." ▼



Jessea Greenman, longtime supporter of educational inclusion.

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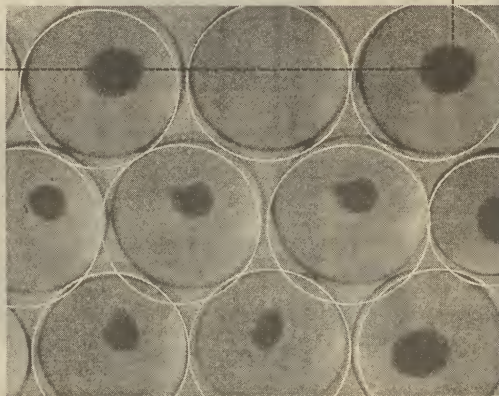
Donald Northfelt, M.D.
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Mount Zion Medical Center

Moderator

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LGVMA gives SF PAWS a friendly pat About Gay Vets—the *Other* Kind

by Kent Brandley

The Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA), after years of effort, has finally been recognized – to a limited extent – by the traditionally conservative American Veterinary Medical Association.

A small but significant advance was made when the fledgling LGVMA was included in the official convention program of the AVMA's 132nd annual meeting held in Pittsburgh last month.

Dr. Tim Withers, secretary of the LGVMA, said the organization was founded in 1993 under the acronym I'M GLAD (International Membership of Gay and Lesbian Animal Doctors), and the newly-renamed LGVMA is a professional association of gay, lesbian, and bisexual veterinarians

from across North America. The rapidly growing organization currently has 150 members.

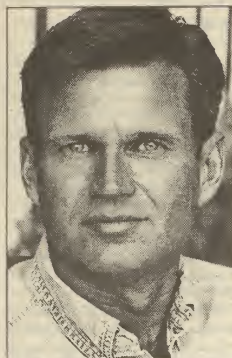
Withers says the LGVMA will continue to advocate positive changes in attitudes and policies, in part by lobbying for inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the non-discrimination policy of the AVMA.

At this year's annual meeting, four awards were given to individuals who were instrumental in the founding of the gay and lesbian veterinary organization: veterinarians Jeff Collins, Donald Stremme, Diana Phillips, and Ken Gortzyca.

Another award was given to Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) of San Francisco, credited with pioneering the model for a community response to the special needs of pet-owning people with HIV/AIDS. Now there are over 25 similar organizations and programs worldwide.

PAWS was honored for leading the way by publishing the *Safe Pet Guidelines* for pet-owners with HIV/AIDS. This short but concise publication immediately became the international standard and filled a void left unfilled by both the medical and veterinary communities, Withers said. Not until 1994 did the AVMA publish similar guidelines, Withers said.

"PAWS exhibited great foresight in educating the AIDS medical community about the importance of the human-animal bond and the minimal risk of zoonosis [any infectious or parasitic disease of animals that can be transmitted to humans]. Instead of allowing



LGVMA chair Ken Gortzyca, a founder of PAWS.

physicians to recommend persons with AIDS give up their animal companions based on unfounded fears, PAWS educated the medical community," he said, "and as a result, many physicians now advocate pets for their AIDS patients."

Locally the LGVMA has an office located at 584 Castro Street, Suite 492. ▼

For more information on LGVMA, fax the local office at (415) 255-9063 or write 584 Castro Street, Suite 492, San Francisco CA 94114. For the national office, call DVM Secretary Tim Withers at (202) 328-3452 or e-mail WWITH@aol.com.

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Report: GOP Medicaid Cuts Bad for California Health

United Press
 International

California could lose more than \$44 billion in federal funding over the next seven years if Washington adopts proposed reductions in medical care programs, health advocates said Wednesday, August 30.

Health Access, a statewide coalition of groups, including the NAACP, American Heart Association, California Nurses Association, and California Teachers Association, predicted that California would lose \$44.1 billion by 2002 if Congress enacts proposed reductions in Medicare and Medicaid. Republicans in Congress have proposed cutting \$431 billion from the two programs to help balance the budget over the next seven years.

The healthcare coalition said millions of Californians could see reduced services if the plan is adopted. "The financial hit on California is enormous," said Bruce Lee Livingston, co-author of the report.

The report mirrored nationwide analyses released earlier this month by the White House, whose officials contend the GOP plan would cost Medicare recipients more, lead to higher insurance rates, and reduce salaries for workers.

Endorsing the report was State Senator Nick Petris of Oakland, who called Medicare the "most cost-effective health insurance program" ever enacted in the United States. Petris said the cuts would reduce the ability of the nation to provide quality care to its residents. ▼

Curriculum

Continued from page 14

Publisher's representatives from Glencoe/McGraw-Hill in New York did not return phone calls, although a spokesperson confirmed to the B.A.R. that the same text package that is now

headed for another round of scrutiny by the California State Board of Education is their standard health curriculum sold to many other states.

For more information call The PERSON Project at (510) 601-8883.

LAPD Co-Sponsors International Gay Police Conference

by Karen Ocamb

The embattled Los Angeles Police Department is once again the subject of intense scrutiny, thanks to the August 29 international airing of the Mark Fuhrman tapes. LAPD Chief Willie Williams and the police commission have also taken to the airwaves and town hall meetings to reassure the citizenry that today bias of any type will not be tolerated in the department. Never before has a police chief so publicly, so often, denounced sexual orientation discrimination along with racism, sexism, and anti-Semitism.

To back up his words with actions, Williams agreed to the LAPD's co-sponsorship of the Second International Conference of Gay & Lesbian Criminal Justice Professionals this September 7-10 in Palm Springs. The conference kicked off Tuesday, September 5 with a reception at a private home in Bel Air.

Invited dignitaries included California Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, openly gay Police Commissioner Art Mattox, openly gay LA Deputy Mayor Mike Keeley (Mayor Riordan is in Europe on vacation), LA County Sheriff's department officials like Chief Leroy Baca, plus California Highway Patrol Chief Gomez, along with scores of LAPD brass

(Bernard Parks, Robert Gil, Tim McBride, Dave Kalish) and lesbian and gay community leaders like West Hollywood City Councilmember Steve Martin, and Los Angeles Community Services Center executive director Lorri Jean.

"This is the first time any police department in the United States has fully co-sponsored a professional and educational event dedicated to the examination of issues concerning gays and lesbians in law enforcement," says LAPD Sergeant Marc D. Goodman of the Golden State Peace Officers Association. The conference is designed for peace officers, deputy sheriffs, firefighters, parole and probation officers, prosecutors, and anyone else interested in "creating a positive working environment for an increasingly diverse workforce."

Over 300 people from 122 different police agencies are expected to attend the conference, including representatives from Denmark's National Police, Berlin, Germany, Scotland Yard, constables from the New South Wales Police Service in Australia, and 26 different U.S. states; plus federal agencies like the FBI, Customs, and Immigration. President Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno, and 22 "major" police chiefs have written "moving" letters of support, and the event has been advertised in a

number of law enforcement publications like the International Association of Women Police and the California Women Police Officers Association - which resulted in a record 40% of attendees being women.

Issues to be discussed in the 15 workshops include discrimination, equal opportunity, coming out on the job, HIV/AIDS, and concerns of women in law enforcement.

Among the 44 different speakers will be Marsha Scott, White House lesbian and gay liaison; HRCF executive director Elizabeth Birch; NGLTF's Deborah Johnson-Rolan; non-gay Boston Police Department Deputy Superintendent William Johnston, who has "played gay" undercover; Police Commissioner Mattox; and openly lesbian LAPD liaison officer Lisa Phillips, a Medal of Valor honoree.

"Often times gay and lesbian police officers think they're alone out there," says Goodman. "This is a good opportunity to show that they're part of a larger network of gay and lesbian police officers." ▼

For more information on the conference contact LAPD Officer Lisa Phillips at 485-4101 (213) 739-4121, or by fax: (310) 652-1926 or E-Mail: gspoa@aol.com.

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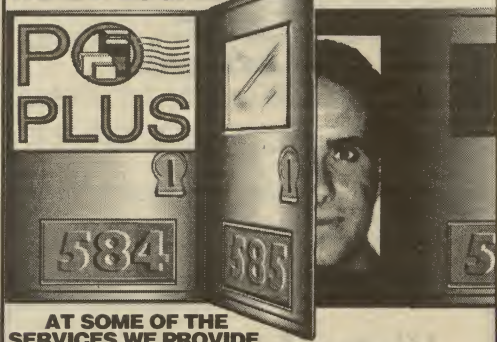
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More trouble for the Scouts

United Press International

An 11-year-old California girl sued the Boy Scouts of America on Thursday, August 24, claiming a policy that limits membership to boys and prevents her from joining the organization is discriminatory.

In her lawsuit, Katrina Yeaw of Rocklin, California accuses the Boy Scouts of violating a state civil rights act and seeks an injunction requiring the group to admit her as a "full member." The girl also is seeking general compensatory and punitive damages, but "our main goal is to win a change in the national policy of the Boy Scouts of America," her attorney, Gloria Allred, said at a Los Angeles news conference.

Yeaw said there is no Girl Scout program in her hometown, and she wants to join the same Boy Scout program as her twin

brother, Daniel, so she can learn canoeing, camping, and other outdoor skills.

The girl filed an application with the Boy Scouts' Golden Empire Council in Sacramento in April, but said she received a letter in June advising her that "Boy Scouting program membership is only for boys." In a telephone interview, Yeaw said she "figured they'd have resistance" against a girl trying to enter the Boy Scouts and realizes she does not face an easy battle ahead of her to try to join the group.

Allred said she was aware of at least two other cases in other states where girls unsuccessfully sued the Boy Scouts, but added that she believes "California law is much more protective of the rights of girls to be free of sex discrimination than other states have been."

The Boy Scouts had no immediate comment on the suit. ▼



Calling Ed McMahon...

Darlene Langston took first place in the Asian AIDS Project's fourth annual Star Search Karaoke contest Sunday, September 3, part of the innovative "Rubber Club" series that AAP created to bring its message to the Asian/Pacific Islander community.

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Please follow normal rules
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We reserve the right to edit for
style, clarity, grammar and taste.

If you're submitting a photo
of the deceased, write their name
on the back. If you include
a SASE for the photo's return,
write the person's name
on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries
is Monday at 5 p.m.

Doug Fraser

Nov. 15, 1950 - Aug. 23, 1995
A truly inspirational spirit quietly
left his mortal body in the early hours of
August 23.



Doug came to
San Francisco in
1974 and found
himself in the
world of restaur-
ants, from waiter
to short order
cook. Though not
his true calling, he
became a wonder-
ful cook because
of it.
Massage became
his profession. He
later taught at the Body Electric School
of Massage and co-created Light Touch
Retreats with Sequoia Thom Lundy.
Doug created healing spaces wherever
he went.

Doug loved to travel, cook and
entertain. He was a friend who support-
ed you. Doug loved strong and deep.
Services will be held in November.
Call (415) 626-5246 for further informa-
tion. Donations can be made to
Service Through Touch or the AIDS
Emergency Fund. ▼

Rev. Dr. William L. Pugh II

August 31, 1995

Bill Pugh passed away unexpected-
ly on Thursday, August 31. He is sur-
vived by his life partner, Kevin R.
Morrisette; two children, Amy and
William; Lois Pugh, his former spouse;
mother, Nancy Davis; father and step-
mother, Joe and Carole Pugh; and his
siblings, Joe, Charlie and Mary.

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, Bill
grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. A true
renaissance man, he was a musician, an
artist, a craftsman, a scientist and a
philosopher. He graduated from the
Georgia Institute of Technology with a
B.S. in biology. He earned an M.S. in
medical microbiology from the
University of Georgia, and an M. Div.
and D. Min. from Emory University.

Bill moved to San Francisco from
Atlanta in 1987 and had most recently
worked for the University of California,
San Francisco. He was also volunteer
staff clergy at MCC San Francisco,
where he put much of his spiritual and
artistic talents to work.

A memorial service will be held on
Saturday, September 9, at 10 a.m. at the
Metropolitan Community Church of
San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street in the
Castro. In lieu of flowers, donations
may be made in his memory to
MCC/SF. ▼

Elmer Miles

June 14, 1945 - Aug. 25, 1995

Elmer passed away in Palm Springs
just before 5 p.m. on Friday, August 25.



He was admitted to
Desert Hospital on July 26, where
he received excel-
lent care from the
staff and stayed till
his departure from
us. At his hospital
bedside were his
very close friends,
Paula, Christo-
pher, and Rex and
Rod. The AIDS
virus which
attacked his brain
came and ended his life quickly.

Elmer lived in San Francisco in the
'70s and '80s before moving to the
Cathedral City down in the desert.
While living here, he worked for Pennzoil
in Alameda, then left to work for the SF
Department of Social Services. He had
many friends in SF and was a 49er sea-
son ticket holder.

After moving to the desert, Elmer
became a real estate agent, first working
for Merrell/Harris, then when the own-
ership changed, for Paula Harris &
Associates. He worked up till his attack
this summer.

Elmer was involved in various
civic organizations and community
development for the City of the Desert
Hot Springs. Those who knew Elmer
have lost someone special. Good-bye,
Elmer. ▼

Robert Denslow Hoopes

Aug. 30, 1945 - Aug. 19, 1995

Berkeley native Robert Denslow
Hoopes, 49, died



August 19. A profes-
sional land-
scape artist and
chef, this longtime
AIDS survivor
helped others with
AIDS through his
participation in
AIDS Walk,
Project Open
Hand, Maitri
Hospice, Tran-
quillium and vol-
unteer work at
Fort Miley
Veterans Hospital. He also supported
the Nature Conservancy and other envi-
ronmental organizations.

Rob's spirituality and enjoyment of
life, nature and art enriched the lives of
those around him. He is survived by
many loved ones and his cherished pets.
He will be greatly missed.

A private memorial will be held at
Rob's home. Remembrances may be
made to Project Open Hand, Maitri
Hospice or Tranquillium. ▼

Paul D. Lowery

1937 - 1995

Paul chose a different path a couple
of weeks ago. Born in South Carolina,
he was raised in
Baltimore, Maryland. After
graduating from
Johns Hopkins
University, he
moved to the Bay
Area.



Paul's first teach-
ing position was at
the Carey School
in San Mateo; later
he joined the
Millbrae school
system. He was a
popular teacher at both schools.

Paul spent most of his time, after an
early retirement, restoring and renovat-
ing several Victorians in San Francisco.
He was hard to get to know and difficult
to get along with, but after a friendship
formed, he was a loyal and long-term
friend. Passionate and compassionate
came to mind readily when you think of
Paul.

Support of the James Hormel Gay
and Lesbian Center (c/o SF Main
Public Library) was one of Paul's
favorite visions. Private services are
pending. ▼

Bruce F. Dickinson

Jan. 17, 1925 - Aug. 26, 1995

After a long and active struggle with
AIDS, Bruce departed this plane of



existence early on
the morning of
August 26. He left
a legacy of great
humor and wit,
love, compani-
onship and fun to
those of us who
knew him. He will
be greatly missed
by all whose life
he touched.

Memorial ser-
vices and a scatter-
ing of his ashes
will be held on September 16 at the
home of beloved friends in the Sierra
Foothills. ▼

Eric S. Caplan

Oct. 25, 1958 - Aug. 24, 1995

Eric S. Caplan passed away August
24 after a battle with AIDS. He was
born in Boston and
graduated from the
Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology with a
bachelor's in
materials science
and engineering,
and received a
master's from
Virginia Tech.



Eric lived in
Atlanta and San
Diego before set-
tling down to live
in San Francisco six years ago. He
worked for SuperShuttle as a driver and
dispatcher for three years. He is sur-
vived by a brother, Lee; sister-in-law,
Laurie, both of Boston; two aunts; two
cousins; many loving friends; and his
life partner, Tim Mansfield.

Services will be held at the
Metropolitan Community Church, 150
Eureka Street, San Francisco on
Saturday, September 9, at 3 p.m.
Donations may be made to Project
Open Hand. ▼

Dwight Alan Dowell

June 28, 1945 - Aug. 26, 1995

Alan peacefully entered the light
from our home shortly after sunrise on
August 26. During his life Alan lived in
Arizona, Massachusetts, San Francisco,
New York City and Washington, D.C.
San Francisco was always home, and it
was to home that we returned in May
1994.

Alan loved architecture, theatre and
dance. Settling here in 1974, he partici-
pated in the Imperial Court, produced
plays and parties, bought and refurb-
ished houses, and served as a docent at
the Museum of Modern Art. He left San
Francisco in 1983 for New York and
Columbia University. With his degree
completed, he settled in Washington,
D.C.; established his architectural
career; and acted as a docent for Carlyle
House in Alexandria, Va.

Alan is survived by his partner, Jim
Sullivan; his cousins, Sandra
Solenberger of St. Louis, Mo., and Avis
Laresse of Lanesborough, Mass.; and
good friends in San Francisco, San
Diego and Washington, D.C. Please
make a donation to the AIDS charity of
your choice in Alan's name. A memori-
al service will be held in San Francisco
at the Metropolitan Community
Church, 150 Eureka St., on Sept. 8 at 6
p.m. ▼

Guy Harrison

June 3, 1957 - Aug. 17, 1995

Our beloved Guy left us for the spiri-
tual world at 6:45 p.m. August 17. He



came to San
Francisco from
London in 1981.
Guy held a mas-
ter's in English
from the
University of
London, a bache-
lor's in psychol-
ogy from Antioch
University and a
culinary arts
degree from the
City and Guilds of
London Institute.

He had many interests: opera, sympho-
ny, gardening, photography and interna-
tional travel. His photographic collec-
tion includes his love for cows and
carousels. An accomplished chef,
friends loved his decadent creations at
the annual Gemini Dessert Party.

Guy was committed to helping
those in need, volunteering with Shanti
as an emotional support counselor and
tutoring youth-at-risk through San
Francisco Educational Services.

After a long fight with AIDS, Guy
died peacefully in the presence of his
loving partner, Dennis Guido, and dear
friend, Carol Badran. Guy is also sur-
vived by his sister Gail, family mem-
bers in England, numerous friends and
his "girls," Tosca and Arabella.

A celebration of Guy's life will be
held Sunday, September 10, at 3 p.m.
in his beautiful garden at his home.
Donations can be made in his name to
the San Mateo County AIDS Program
or San Francisco Educational
Services. ▼

Michael C. Dillon

August 23, 1995

Michael C. Dillon, former co-presi-
dent of Spectrum, the Center for Gay,
Lesbian and



Bisexual Concerns
in Marin County,
died on August 23
in San Rafael from
AIDS-related
complications. He
was 44.

Michael co-
developed the first
support training
for the Marin
AIDS Project and
the first support
group for gay men

in Marin County who had lost their
partners to AIDS. He was also a mem-
ber of Spectrum's Speakers Bureau.
"Michael gave all he could to
Spectrum's programs. He'll be missed,"
said Tom Matteoli, president of the
board of directors.

One of Michael's passions was
roses. He was a member of the Marin
County Rose Society. "He grew prize-
winning roses and loved to garden,"
recalled his partner, John Calhoun of
San Rafael.

Michael worked as a realtor for
Re/Max-Central Marin. In addition to
his partner, he is survived by his par-
ents, Fred and Patricia Bussey of Palm
Desert; his brother, Pat Dillon of
Vancouver, Washington; and his aunt,
Marianne Hamilton of Walnut Creek. A
private memorial will be held on
September 10. Contact Spectrum at
457-1115 for details. Contributions may
be made to Spectrum or the Marin
AIDS Project. ▼

Crypto Concerns Escalate

by Kent Brandley

Tony Leone, the Harvey Milk Democratic Club vice president who has been periodically hospitalized with cryptosporidiosis in recent months, told the *Bay Area Reporter* his medical condition was initially among those not listed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health as a crypto case.

Leone charges that health officials are not reporting all of the cases of the waterborne parasite, and are hiding the extent of the problem by giving crypto patients "diarrhea" diagnoses.

"They are lowballing it," he said.

Leone is now in a position to take action if his health will allow it. He is among those appointed to the new Crypto Task Force ordered by Supervisor Carole Migden. After calling for hearings on crypto last spring, Migden asked in June that a Cryptosporidium Task Force be created by August 1, and that guidelines be in place by October 16. The effort appears to be on time and on track.

As ill as he now is, Leone told the *B.A.R.* he will attend the task force meetings on a stretcher, if that is necessary.

The scourge of cryptosporidium has been getting more media attention in the wake of the Republicans' successful attempt to limit clean water standards nationwide, and local concern about the purity of Bay Area tap water. And the news about crypto, according to a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal* and what is called a "no-holds-barred" independent performance evaluation on the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant prepared by Olivia Chen Consultants, Inc., is mostly bad.

Up to 97 percent

On Wednesday, August 16, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on efforts to improve detection of crypto in the drinking water, saying — perhaps over-optimistically — "The EPA at some point is likely to mandate a drinking-water

standard for crypto, a parasite that's excreted by cattle and other animals into watersheds.

"It's estimated to be present in 65 percent to 97 percent of untreated water in the U.S.," the article continued.

Fortunately, a blood test for crypto is in the works and researchers including Dr. Victor Tsang, chief of the immunology branch of the National Center for Infectious Disease Control in Atlanta, are now making headway in developing improved methods to detect the parasite in water sources, according to the *Journal* article.



Tony Leone

At this critical juncture, Tsang "has been testing a method to identify crypto that takes significantly less time, and perhaps most importantly, eliminates subjective judgments," it stated. "Information that used to take days to obtain can now be available in a matter of hours."

Unfortunately, Tsang may not be able to complete his work, reportedly because money is in short supply.

Possible passage of pathogens

The PUC report on the Sunol plant, made available to the *B.A.R.* August 21 by Anson B. Moran, general manager of the Public Utilities Commission for San Francisco, confirms there are serious public health concerns based on water quality, as previously reported here.

Sunol "is excellent during the dry weather period, but is highly variable during the rainy season," the 49-page report states. "A high turbidity filtered water suggests the possible passage of pathogens, such as *Cryptosporidium* and

Giardia, through the filters. These organisms are known to be resistant to chlorine disinfection. If they are present in the raw water and the treatment processes fail to remove or destroy them, their presence in the distribution system is a serious public health concern.

"The *Cryptosporidium* incident in Milwaukee, Wisconsin that occurred in 1993 [killing over 100 immunocompromised people] has heightened the awareness of health officials and the water supply industry to re-evaluate the effectiveness of the conventional treatment and disinfection processes."

San Diego resident Philip A. Kees, who identifies himself as a disabled and retired physician and microbiologist, told the *B.A.R.* he believes the source of crypto infestation may be the Toulumne River, which empties into the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Kees, observing "that cryptosporidium and many other micro-organisms... are transmitted in horse and mule feces," blames horses and mules in Yosemite National Park for a "toxic onslaught of waste" into what had been considered a "pristine" water supply.

Kees refers to the John Muir Trail as the "John Manure Trail," and claims, "There has been a 50 year history of declining water quality to the City of San Francisco. The National Park Service has successfully taken the world's most pure and pristine waters and turned them into a cesspool of effluent." ▼

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Gay Sperm Donors Wanted

Lesbians seek Gay Men to play "uncle"

OAKLAND - A new sperm bank, Rainbow Flag Health Services, plans to offer a new service to the Lesbian and Gay community: **known donor insemination**. They are recruiting Gay and Bisexual sperm donors for Lesbians and will tell the mother who the biological father is when the child is 3 months old. Under California law donors have no financial obligations nor any custody rights. Knowing the donor can be very important to the child. Some artificially conceived children start asking about their biological fathers as young as 3 and 4.

Being a known donor gives Gay Men, who do not want to raise children, an opportunity to have children in their lives, connects them to Lesbian families, and helps build community. Many Lesbians want donors to play "uncle" to their children. The demand for known donors is much greater than the supply. Rainbow Flag Health Services is recruiting donors of all ethnic backgrounds. If you are healthy, under 55 years old and are interested in being a known donor call for an appointment **(510)763-7737**

Current Active Studies

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For individuals who are allergic to sulfa drugs and who need prophylaxis against *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, a comparison of low-dose Mepron vs. high-dose Mepron vs. Aerosol Pentamidine. 18 month study sponsored by Burroughs Wellcome.

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A new retinoid gel for topical application to KS lesions. Provides a non-cytotoxic option for people with skin KS. 8 week study with option to continue if the gel is safe and effective. Sponsored by Ligand Pharmaceuticals.

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Two studies available: first, for people with 200-500 CD4 and less than 6 months of AZT, a double-blind comparison of AZT plus DLV vs. AZT plus placebo; second, for people with fewer than 300 CD4 and less than 4 months of ddI, a double-blind comparison of ddI plus DLV vs. ddI plus placebo. Sponsored by the Upjohn Company.

DaunoXome

This is a compassionate use protocol for people who have advanced KS. Patients receive infusions twice a month and may continue indefinitely. This study is sponsored by Vestar, Inc.

Human Growth Hormone (rHGH)

is currently available in an expanded access trial. HIVCare has just become a study site to make it easier for people to get the drug. We will submit paperwork and insurance/MedCal info for you to determine if you are eligible. rHGH has shown good results for people with HIV-associated wasting syndrome by helping them increase their weight by gaining muscle. Enrollment is limited. Drug manufactured by Serono Laboratories.

For further information, please call the Client Care Coordinator at (415) 353-6215. HIVCare is a program of the Clinical Research Department at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, 900 Hyde St., SF 94109.

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- What are some of the newest and most promising alternative therapies to treat HIV

Presented by

Jon D. Kaiser, MD
DIRECTOR, CMG WELLNESS CENTER

Monday, September 11th, 1995
6:30 p.m.

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For more information, please call (415) 351-3100

Task Force Members

These are the names and affiliations of those who will serve on the new *Cryptosporidium* Task Force in San Francisco:

Lorraine Anderson, environmental health specialist, City of San Francisco

Michael Colbruno, legislative aide to Supervisor Migden, who called for the Task Force

Kerry Katherine Enright, executive director of AIDS Memorial Grove/Tides Foundation

Renee Etienne, nurse practitioner

Erik Ferguson, retired

William Hershon, law student

Steve Kachur, Department of Health Services, Berkeley

Dr. Mitch Katz, San Francisco Department of Public Health - AIDS office

Stephen Kavanaugh, registered nurse, Beverly Enterprises, San Francisco

Gary S. Lance, environmental protection specialist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Steve Leonard, Public Utilities Commission (Hetch-Hetchy)

Tony Leone, registered nurse, STAT Nursing Services, San Francisco; crypto sufferer

Bruce Livingston, executive director, Health Access, San Francisco

Tom Musbach, editorial manager, OnLine Partners, San Francisco

Dr. Christine Paszko-Kolva, food/environmental group leader, Perkin Elmer Applied Biosystems, Redwood City

Dr. George W. Rutherford, associate dean, U.C. Berkeley

Weight for me!

by Michael C. Botkin

It seems to be the primary law of desire that anything that is forbidden is attractive and all things that are compulsory are tiresome. For me this has meant that eating, my second favorite activity, has turned from a delight into something of a chore.

I'm rarely hungry, for if any trace of genuine appetite surfaces above the constant nausea induced by my witches' brew of antibiotics and antivirals, I quickly take advantage of it to shove in a few brownies or chicken wings. I constantly find myself facing a plate of simply wonderful food – and having to force it down morsel by morsel

in my relentless attempt to outdo the AIDS virus.

When I consider how I used to feel about food, I'm amazed and perplexed. I was in a constant state of unsatisfied desire, lusting after things I knew I shouldn't want and feeling horribly guilty about it. It's the guilt I can't understand now. I can see feeling regret – gee, it's too bad I'm going to eat this chocolate cake and gain some weight, or gee, it's too bad I'm going to have pass on this yummy cake – but guilt? As if liking chocolate cake were some kind of moral flaw?

Yet this is the common reaction. In America people are obsessed with weight, and being heavy isn't seen as merely undesirable but as a symptom of moral depravity, the inability to curb one's desires. A hundred years ago, being fat was considered sexy and attractive, since it reliably

reflected the health and wealth of the individual. In most parts of the world, unlike the United States, the primary nutrition problem isn't obesity; it's starvation.

Yet here and now, desiring things that are specifically designed to be desirable and which we need to stay alive is seen as a lapse of judgment at best and

currently available, even counting those in the pipeline scheduled to come out in the next two years, offers me any hope of getting off my fistfuls of prophylactic and treatment drugs. I hunger for that distant day when I can again experience true hunger.

In the meantime, true to the law of desire, the only foods I truly crave are the ones I can't have. If I were told I had an inoperable brain tumor and had only three days to live, I would rush out of the doctor's office to the Zuni Cafe for a couple of trays of raw oysters. Then I'd mosey over to that no-name sushi place on Church for a massive sashimi blowout. The thought of those glossy blocks of tender raw fish, the memory of those subtle flavors and textures, seem so alluring since I can't indulge them.

Commentary

moral weakness at worst! And what is one to make of these emaciated models whose painfully thin torsos are so prominently displayed on highway billboards? As someone who recently had trouble keeping his pants up and his watch on, I find such pictures actively painful; certainly not too many people find them attractive. Do they? Is this really our model of beauty?

Working with eating-disordered women as a psychotherapist gave me an intimate peek at their view of food, which is just a caricature of the subliminal mixed messages our culture sends on the topic. It was never seen as nutrition, as sustenance. It was always either the forbidden fruit or the ultimate reward. They would punish themselves by refusing to eat and take a kind of painful joy at the moral strength they thus displayed.

If they slipped at all – a frequent occurrence – they fell completely into a binge and devoured gallons of ice cream. Which of course made them sick, which they felt they deserved and to which they added all sorts of penances and punishments for the lapse.

It was horrifying to sit opposite a young woman growing the light down on her body that is the reaction to severe malnutrition (the body, attempting to deal with what it assumes is a major famine, tries to grow extra hair to save warmth and energy) and hear her proudly boasting of how she denied herself all food that day in retaliation for eating a pint of ice cream the night before. She was at war with her desires and took her horrendous defeats in that struggle for victories. I realized it might be possible to save her from starvation, but that she would probably never really enjoy food.

True hunger

At least I can still enjoy food, although not as much as I used to. Partially it's that I'm at least slightly nauseated most of the time, and partially it's that all these drugs have distorted my sense of taste. Of the 15 prescription drugs I currently take (not counting various vitamins, minerals, food supplements, and herbs), eight caution that they may cause nausea and four list taste-changes as possible side effects.

It's actually something of a minor miracle that I can digest any food at all, given that my stomach bacteria are under constant assault from all the antibiotics which, alas, don't distinguish real well between nasty invading beasts and helpful indigenous bacteria. I reinforce the good guys every morning with acidophilus and yogurt, but the battle against HIV takes place in every corner of my body, most notably the digestive tract.

Some day, if I could stop taking all these drugs, I'm sure the nausea would depart and my ability to taste would return to normal. However, none of the treatments

Food rules

As I sat at the counter at the sushi place, consoling myself with the grilled unagi (which, I remind myself with moral satisfaction, has a lot more fat than sashimi), I watched the boards of sashimi going by to customers with intact immune systems and felt a horrible temptation. I could order it. I could eat it. It's taking a chance, but how much of a chance?

Tempted, I set out to get a realistic and coherent estimate of the risk inherent in eating raw sushi. It was difficult. Most nutritionists weren't willing to get specific about the risks involved, instead retreating to a blanket ban on everything even slightly suspicious. Foodies get awfully huffy about their idiosyncratic rules, and not following them is taken as a sign of depravity. There are people who say that HIVers should be entirely vegan – although you'd have to eat peanut butter all day to get enough protein. Others insist that you must wash lettuce and all salad greens in bleach before you eat them. "Make sure to rinse them well," one is advised.

I've never felt any desire to go to these extremes, but I did accept the common ban on sushi. But just how much risk was involved? If it was one chance in ten of getting something awful, I obviously wouldn't eat it. But if it was one in a thousand, I might consider it.

What finally convinced me to stick by the ban was one friend's belief that the risk from fish was inherent. "If a restaurant cooks chicken badly or stores it improperly, it can become dangerous, and a good place will never let that happen. But raw fish is such a good medium for parasites that even if the sushi parlor does everything right and takes every conceivable precaution, you could still get something," he told me.

So I asked myself; if I eat some sashimi and get a brain infection shortly afterward, will I be able to say it was worth it? I decided, finally, that I wouldn't and went back for some more unagi. It was churlish, I decided, to regret sashimi while eating unagi, when so many of my friends and ex-lovers are just ashes among my rose bushes now, and can't eat anything at all.

All this writing about food has made me as hungry as I've been in several years. I'm going to bike this in and stop at Art's Country Kitchen (on Church, near Market) for some of the city's best fried chicken on my way home. It's too bad I can't do sashimi, but it's a relief to think that there are still a few dumplings out there with my name on them. ▼

Attention Couples

Study for HIV+ Gay Men and Their Partners

Earn 2 Free Movie Passes, \$5 in Cash or a \$5 Donation to the AIDS Charity of Your Choice

The purpose of this research is to gain a better understanding of the psychological needs of gay men confronting the AIDS crisis and offer important practical implications for designing mental health services to meet those needs.

For More Information, Call (415) 201-2254

Center for AIDS Health Services

(EIP and ICH Clinics)

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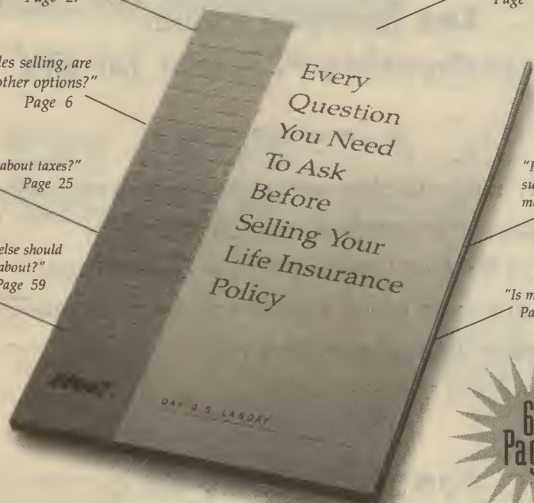
"Will selling my Insurance Policy cut into my Social Security or other benefits?"
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"How can I make sure the information I supply is kept confidential?"
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"Besides selling, are there other options?"
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"What about taxes?"
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"How can I make sure I'm getting the most money?"
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"Is my policy salable?"
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The answers to these and other important questions are in this new guide. Jay, our local representative, is a trained specialist who can help you understand all your options. Or speak to the author directly by calling 800-932-0050 toll free, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET.

NVR

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Taco

Continued from page 1

According to the formal complaint for damages filed in San Francisco Superior Court, Escobar had a history of rude comments to customers, had difficulty working with co-workers, and was known as "a problem employee" to Taco Bell management.

The management of Taco Bell owe it to Fontana and other Taco Bell customers to hire qualified, competent employees, and to train them appropriately and provide customers with a secure and physically safe environment, Tagawa said.

"They have a duty to their customers. Taco Bell must be open to people of all races and shapes and sizes, to men and women, gay and straight, and people with disabilities, whether mental or physical or whether the person is in a wheelchair or whatever," Tagawa said.

Fontana suffers from a diagnosed mental disability,

in addition to severe ankle problems.

Fontana told the *Bay Area Reporter* that because Taco Bell management did nothing about Escobar's anti-gay conduct she believed "she could take her anti-gay slurs to another level, including physically assaulting gay customers like myself."

The fast food franchise took action to fire Escobar only after they learned of pending legal action against them for the anti-gay incident, Fontana said.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public accommodations, housing, and employment is against the law in San Francisco, and the fast food franchise is also liable for civil action for slander, assault and battery, negligent management, and intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Taco Bell has not yet filed a formal answer to the lawsuit, but Fontana said he hopes publicity about the legal action will prompt ex-employees and customers who have either witnessed or been victimized by such conduct to come forward. ▼

Invention

Continued from page 1

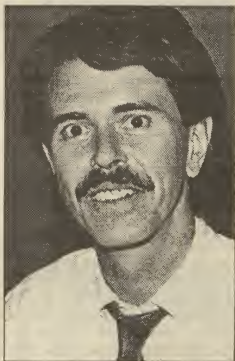
be relevant to the needs and issues of positive men, as well. "Some sessions will discuss relations between positive and negative men; others, the importance of building a life of meaning and purpose, and inventing a future and a community we want to protect."

"Several things will make Invention different," Van Gorder, who is now a steering committee member, said. "We won't focus on safe sex but on addressing issues in our lives, and in the gay community, that make it harder to stay HIV-negative. We are seeking to create a visible, community-wide dialogue about the crucial issues facing us. Invention will be a place where gay men will be encouraged to say what they feel without being made to feel guilty. And the meetings will be both upbeat and powerful."

Walt Odets, a Berkeley psychotherapist and author of *In the Shadow of the Epidemic*, will address the group's first meeting on Friday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church, located at 150 Eureka Street in San Francisco. The topic of the first session is "Coming Out Negative."

'Not as fearful as they were'

A statement from the group, made available to the *B.A.R.* at the press conference, said the San Francisco AIDS office estimates



Joe Brewer

at least 650 gay and bisexual men are seroconverting in San Francisco every year, up from some 250 per year in 1987.

"In 1992 and 1993, the city funded focus groups in an attempt to determine why. Some negative men offered troubling explanations for why they have unsafe sex: It is inevitable that they will seroconvert; positive men are living longer lives, causing them not to be as fearful of seroconverting as they once were; having HIV seems like part of the gay experience; it can feel as though one has betrayed his positive friends and community by staying negative; positive men experience greater social support and access to services, sometimes creating an

incentive to seroconvert; and there is inadequate support from others for remaining negative," the statement said.

"Many positive men in the focus groups said they discovered the meaning and value of their lives, as well as increased support from friends, on learning they were positive. Psychologists and HIV test site counselors working with negative men are describing the same issues among their clients, and share a sense of urgency about new efforts to address them."

"We wouldn't argue that these issues are universal to negative men," said Tom Moon, another Invention steering committee member present at the news conference. "But they are common for men at risk for seroconverting, and necessitate more services targeting this group specifically."

"It's critical that we help negative men recognize the importance of staying negative, believe it's possible to stay negative, and believe that HIV does not have to be part of the gay experience. Just as a strong identity is important to HIV-positive men, we believe a strong sense of identity for negative men is important to their ability to stay uninfected."

Organizers emphasized that Invention is currently an all-volunteer activity receiving no funding. ▼

People interested in serving as small group facilitators and helpers may call Gary Steman at (415) 863-4914.

China

Continued from page 1

San Francisco-based International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

"Lesbian rights are human rights," the San Francisco resident told a packed news conference.

Although sexual orientation is mentioned four times in the draft action platform, Dorf said it would be a "landmark moment" if one reference emerges in the final document.

Backing the lesbian drive, more than 200 NGOs have signed a petition calling on the conference to "recognize the right to determine one's sexual identity, the right to control one's own body, particularly in establishing intimate relationships, and the right to choose if, when and with whom to bear or raise children."

Dorf identified "friendly governments" as Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, South Africa, Israel, and Australia.

But Dorf angrily responded to rumors circulated by the Chinese that the lesbians and prostitutes planned to band together and stage a nude demonstration.

"They are totally misinformed," she said, and intent on "discrediting the important work of human rights organizations. We are easy targets."

Dorf said a group of lesbians would demonstrate with their clothes on at the forum's Global Pavilion Tuesday.

Homosexuality is illegal in China, and the news conference plus the numerous workshops represent the first time lesbians have been allowed to speak out in the communist country.

However, Anjana Suvarmananda with the Anjaree Lesbian Group in Thailand admitted the concentrations of Chinese media at the entrances to their workshops discouraged many from attending.

Homosexuality is illegal in China, but Suvarmananda said it exists everywhere — including China — despite the government's position. ▼

Hearings

Continued from page 1

The hearings will convene before the relatively toothless Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, of the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, under Hoekstra's gavel. What has gay activists upset is the fact that they have been scheduled after years of lobbying by the Traditional Values Coalition's Lou Sheldon.

Brandt maintained that the hearings would not be a bully pul-

pit for Sheldon, but rather a reminder that curriculum decisions should be decided by local school boards, and not at the state and national level.

"We're not trying to railroad anyone, we're not trying to promote any point of view," said Brandt.

"This is a fact-finding hearing."

However, Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's "Fight the Right" told the *B.A.R.*, "We're not sure how fair they can be, since one of the main proponents is Lou Sheldon, who

has pushed since the early Bush years for these hearings.

"You have to step back and look at it from a different perspective," Bray said, and see how the call for local school board control fits into the context of the right's larger political agenda, of gay rights repeals, and the dismantling of public education. School boards, he said, "are the electoral arena that the right wing is placing their emphasis on." ▼

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In the past, Congress set aside funds specifically for AIDS research.

The Office of AIDS Research (OAR) distributed those funds to each of the 24 institutes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), our nation's health research headquarters. The OAR ensured that those research dollars were spent effectively.

"Too much bureaucracy," said conservative legislators. Last month, the House of Representatives voted to stop setting aside money for AIDS research--for the first time since the AIDS pandemic began. Instead, they say, each institute at the NIH can decide whether or not to spend some of its general funds on AIDS research.

But taking the OAR "out of the loop" is like taking the general contractor away from a construction site--who's going to ensure our nation maintains its commitment to curing HIV and AIDS?

In the next few weeks, the Senate will decide to approve or reject this plan. Please clip and mail these messages to Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR), or call them via the Congressional switchboard: 202-224-3121. Thanks for helping to save AIDS research!

Sen. Arlen Specter
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter,

Our nation must not falter in its commitment to finding a cure for AIDS. Don't eliminate the AIDS research appropriation for the NIH, and don't diminish the authority of the Office of AIDS Research to manage those funds.

Sincerely,

name _____
address _____
city, state, zip _____

Sen. Mark Hatfield
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatfield,

Our nation must not falter in its commitment to finding a cure for AIDS. Don't eliminate the AIDS research appropriation for the NIH, and don't diminish the authority of the Office of AIDS Research to manage those funds.

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HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Borrowing an immune system

by Matthew Sharp
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writer's Pool

The long term effect of current anti-viral therapies have up to now been mostly disappointing. People with AIDS, however, are living longer because of the advances made in preventing opportunistic infections through prophylaxis medicine. A number of technological advances have now been made to restore the immune system, and a few human trials are presenting interesting results from these technologies that may help save lives. Much is still unknown about AIDS pathogenesis and the complex interworkings of the human immune system. But the AIDS pandemic has been the catalyst for further research into this area, and now there is real possibility that several methods of immune restoration will work in people with AIDS.

The following are some of the methods being researched in restoring the immune system in AIDS:

- Manipulation of immune cells or gene therapy has been an exciting, yet complicated technology for restoring the immune system. Delayed because of the FDA, there are a few trials beginning for HIV and for CMV.

- Research looking into the thymus gland and the endocrine system may answer many unknowns. This has been a heretofore unrecognized area of exploration in AIDS.

- Cell expansion involves the growing of one's own immune cells (autologous transfer) outside of the body and then infusing the cells back into the body to add to the number of fighting and helper T-cells. (Sort of like adding more troops in a battle.)

- Cytokine therapy is moving at a rapid pace as therapies such as IL-2 and thalidomide work to regulate these messengers of the immune system.

- Cell transfer technologies are moving forward including: sibling cell allogeneic transfer (involving lymphocyte transfer from a brother or sister) and xenogeneic transfer (infusion of certain immune cells from another species to a human)

The focus of this article will be the allogeneic lymphocyte transfer clinical trials that are beginning at St. Francis Hospital HIV Care in San Francisco and through the NIH at Case Western University in Cleveland. Allogeneic lymphocyte transfer involves the infusion of lymphocytes, or immune system cells from a non-HIV infected sibling into an HIV-infected person. The sibling donors must have their blood screened for viruses and must be HLA (human leukocyte antigen) matched to the recipients. In other words the sibling cells must be genetically matched with the patient. Then, the blood is drawn from the sibling, lymphocytes are separated and infused into the HIV-infected subject. The rationale of this approach is to restore the body's own ability to combat disease progression by replacing damaged and lost immune cells with a brother or sister's healthy cells.

Initial clinical trials of allogeneic transfer were performed in the late 1980s at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia by Dr. Stephen Hauptman. In the study 18 people with advanced HIV disease were infused monthly for five months with lymphocytes from matched siblings. Blood test results showed a rise in total lymphocyte populations including CD4 and CD8 cells, the

cells most affected by HIV.

Another study at the Center for Special Immunology in Florida performed virtually the same experiment adding infusions of HIVIG (hyper-immune gamma globulin: an HIV antibody soup). Unfortunately, in this study advanced AIDS was probably the cause of several toxicities and deaths. There is a real risk to patients involved in this new therapy. Although the early trials seemed safe, there have been cases of Graft vs. Host disease (GVHD: a dangerous and possibly life-threatening immune response to foreign cells from a transfusion). Also, a more serious threat is the clumping of the transfused cells in the recipients' lungs, which can cause death. The theory holds that the closer HLA matched the donated cells are to the recipients, the less chances there are of GVHD. This explains why beginning studies looked at identical twins where cells couldn't be attacked, as they were not identified as foreign. Also, since people with advanced AIDS have weakened immune systems, it is thought that they would mount a weaker response to foreign infused cells, hence less of a chance of GVHD.

A long road

It is clear that more trials need to be run to determine whether this technology can work in people with AIDS. Dr. Michael Lederman, an immunologist at Case Western University, is running a similar study to the one in San Francisco. One of the differences is that his study is being funded by the federal AIDS research dollar through DAITRI, an arm of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group. Dr. Lederman stated, "We want to see if we can replicate the studies done previously with newer technologies and more knowledge." Now that we have new technologies and more knowledge to determine how much HIV is present in peripheral blood, the current allogeneic trials can answer questions that the first trials couldn't. What cells are proliferating and where they are going in the body will also hopefully be answered with this research, thereby furthering our knowledge of how AIDS effects the immune system.

It's been a long road to get these innovative trials up and running. Convincing the regulatory and funding agencies to accept pioneering allogeneic trials has been a unconventional kind of fight for AIDS activists. Project Inform's Immune Restoration Think Tank and ACT UP/Golden Gate member Jeff Getty have been trailblazers for allogeneic research, fighting the UC IRB (Institutional Review Board) and fearful physicians until he was able to have the transfer done under his own doctors care.

Getty's own experience with allogeneic transfer has kept him alive after one year. The first transfer he did cleared his system of cryptococcus, a serious fungal infection. Later, Getty and Project Inform pushed for development and private funding sources for the St. Francis trials.

"When ACT UP/Golden Gate members testified at the FDA Biologic Modifier Committee for the baboon bone marrow transfer to move ahead, our modus operandi was to stress that some risk has to be taken in order to find an end to AIDS," Getty says. "This is also the case with allogeneic cell transfer. Even though technologies for immune restoration are risky, and seemingly far-fetched, at least we are beginning to have some hope with allogeneic transfer.

"Let's take further risk and move forward to end AIDS." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 197735
The following person(s) are doing business as 4 R PRIDE PRODUCTION, 840 Clipper Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94114; Debra Elaine Broner, 840 Clipper St. San Francisco, CA 94114 and ALENE SNAIDMAN LEVINE, 840 Clipper Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 08, 1995. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed DEBRA E. BRONER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 08, 1995.

Aug. 17, 24, 31, 1995, Sept. 7, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 197825
The following person(s) are doing business as ROLAND PRIJOLES CO., 162 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121; ROLAND PRIJOLES, 162 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 11, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ROLAND PRIJOLES. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 11, 1995.

Aug. 17, 24, 31, 1995, Sept. 7, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 197776
The following person(s) are doing business as GLOBAL VILLAGE TRANSLATORS, 552 Lyon Street, Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94117-1331; MARTIN G. HOFFMAN, 552 Lyon Street, Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94117-1331. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed MARTIN G. HOFFMAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 09, 1995.

Aug. 17, 24, 31, 1995, Sept. 07, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 197904
The following person(s) are doing business as U.S. FUNG LUM TRADING CO., 737 Folsom Street, #816, San Francisco, CA 94108; ALEX WONG, 737 Folsom Street, #816, San Francisco, CA 94108. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 14, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ALEX WONG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 14, 1995.

Aug. 24, 31, 1995, Sept. 07, 14, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198150
The following person(s) are doing business as WORD DOG, 219 Cumberland Street, #6, San Francisco, CA 94114; TERRY P. BRANOFF, 219 Cumberland Street, #6, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 1, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed TERRY BRANOFF. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 23, 1995.

Aug. 31, 1995, Sept. 07, 14, 21, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198110
The following person(s) are doing business as OCEAN GYM, 1850 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112; POWER HOUSE GYM OF SAN FRANCISCO, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 1850 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 22, 1995. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed NOEL SANCHEZ, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 22, 1995.

Aug. 31, 1995, Sept. 07, 14, 21, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 18352
The following person(s) are doing business as ALL FOURS, 303 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94117; LLOYD CAMPBELL WILSON, 303 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 and MARK CHARLES POULIN, 1633 Ninth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 31, 1995. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed LLOYD C. WILSON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 31, 1995.

Sept. 07, 14, 21, 28, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198254
The following person(s) are doing business as DADEURUS PRODUCTIONS, 4337 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; MICHAEL PAUL SCHRUENDER, 4337 18th Street, San Francisco, CA. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 28, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed MICHAEL P. SCHRUENDER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 28, 1995.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 971859

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of STEVEN JOSEPH ZEMBO for change of name. The application of STEVEN JOSEPH ZEMBO for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that STEVEN JOSEPH ZEMBO has filed an application proposing the HIS name be change to STEVEN JOSEPH ZEMBA. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 26th day of SEPTEMBER 1995, AT 9:00 O'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of August 18, 1995.

Aug. 31, 1995, Sept. 07, 14, 21, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198284
The following person(s) are doing business as BLACK AND BLUE TATTOO, 483 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103; STEFANIE WELLHAUSEN, 486 Tarolett, San Francisco, CA 94110 and NATALIE CHANDLER, 3614 Mangels Avenue, Oakland, CA 94691. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed STEFANIE WELLHAUSEN and NATALIE CHANDLER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 29, 1995.

Sept. 07, 14, 21, 28, 1995

CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 971762

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of SCOTT JAMES TALBOT for change of name. The application of SCOTT JAMES TALBOT for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that SCOTT JAMES TALBOT has filed an application proposing the HIS name be change to SCOTT MILLER FIORE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 26th day of SEPTEMBER 1995, AT 9:00 O'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of August 15, 1995.

Aug. 31, 1995, Sept. 07, 14, 21, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198180
The following person(s) are doing business as WILDER DESIGN, 1627 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109; KEVIN T. WILDER, 1627 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 24, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed KEVIN WILDER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 24, 1995.

Aug. 31, 1995, Sept. 07, 14, 21, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198060
The following person(s) are doing business as BILL McKEMMA & ASSOCIATES, 412 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; WILLIAM McKENNA, 412 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 21, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed WILLIAM McKENNA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 21, 1995.

Aug. 31, 1995, Sept. 07, 14, 21, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 197584
The following person(s) are doing business as SHOW 59 PRODUCTIONS, 1542 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94117; HUMPHREY WOU, 1542 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 1, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed HUMPHREY WOU. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 01, 1995.

Sept. 07, 14, 21, 28, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 198334
The following person(s) are doing business as I SITE INTERNET SOLUTIONS, 915 Cole Street, #356, San Francisco, CA 94117; KENNETH WALKER CLUFF, 915 Cole Street, #356, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed KEN CLUFF. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 30, 1995.

Sept. 07, 14, 21, 28, 1995

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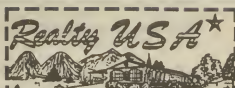
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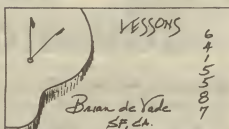
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Nico Irony



Nico (right) with son, Ari

by Roberto Friedman

Of all the icons of popular culture, underground superstar Nico is perhaps the most pathetic. She began with a charmed life: a ravishing beauty, she was already a top model in Paris in her teens. Always in the right place at the right time, she was a cameo celebrity in Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, a Chelsea Girl for Andy Warhol in the heyday of the Factory, and, of course, singer with the Velvet Underground when they made rock history.

But it's not as if Nico, born Christa Paffgen in wartime Germany, had any great talent. As for her looks, by her tragic end they had gone, too, the predictable result of years of shooting up and desperate living. Susanne Ofteringer's new documentary *Nico-Icon* makes all of this abundantly clear, as well as the reasons why Nico, "the Queen of the bad girls," is still such a compelling subject.

Basically a talking head documentary comprised of interviews with people who knew her when, *Nico-Icon* treats us to reminiscences by Warhol protégé director Paul Morrissey, Nico's puppy-love boyfriend Jackson Browne, and members of the Velvet Underground. But the film is most notable for the archival footage Ofteringer has dug up to illustrate all the talk. It's amusing to see Nico as a glamour girl in early French TV commercials, and the amateur film of Nico the chanteuse fronting the Velvets during their first public performance, at the American Psychiatric Convention (!), is priceless.

It's in the collaging of these disparate elements that Ofteringer's skill and pacing as a filmmaker are most

apparent. When we arrive at the Warhol years, for example, the film suddenly becomes more experimental, using split-screen formats and multiple images reminiscent of Warhol's trademark repetitive silk-screening. Only the choice of using an overlong scene of the Velvets' John Cale at the piano, banging out some dirge as the film's ending, seems ill-considered. Cale, who produced Nico's solo career, makes some noises about her work fitting into the tradition of European classical music, but this is puffery. As another musician concedes, Nico's solo releases were most generously described as "junkie pop." Concert footage of her "singing" on her final tours drives home how excruciatingly bad she could be.

On the other hand, her songs with the Velvet Underground, "I'll Be Your Mirror" and "All Tomorrow's Parties" are indisputable classics, and they are the reason Nico will be remembered. They certainly were treasures to me when I discovered them as a gay teenager.

Continued on page 32

The making of
'To Wong Foo'The Good,
the Bad and
the Beautiful

by Wayne Hoffman

For an October afternoon, the sun is pounding down on this dusty Nebraska town with full August strength. Forty-five minutes from Lincoln, too small even to appear on maps, Loma is a tiny blip of wood sheds and dirt roads. On an average day, the population is 23; on weekends, neighbors from surrounding towns come to enjoy the area's only bar, which raises the population to a bustling 40 people.

But Loma is ready for this moment in the sun. Film crews for *To Wong Foo* have set up trailers next to the town church, which is now being used as production offices for Universal Studios. Hot lights blast into neighboring houses, right through the aging tan window shades. Production assistants call for quiet on the set, only to realize that quiet is all this town has known for decades. In the town square, gathered around one of four identical yellow convertibles, stand some of the biggest names in Hollywood. In drag.

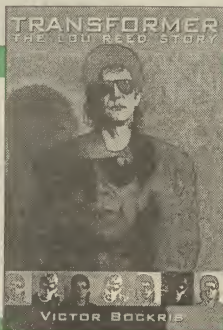
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Wesley Snipes,
John Leguizamo,
and Patrick Swayze

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Lou Reed
dissected

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Roberto Scanduzzi
returns to the
SF Opera in
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by Justin Zane
and Pithy Galore

Big Stink Over Liz's Stench: In a move that has stunned the cosmetics industry, *The Wall Street Journal* reported last week that Elizabeth Arden Inc. has canceled the September launch of Liz Taylor's Black Pearls fragrance, the star's fourth "designer" cologne. That means a big financial loss for Arden's marketing department, which plunked out \$12 million for an incredibly tacky ad campaign that included a gaudy Herb Ritts photo of the obviously aging star immersed in what the company calls "a Tahitian lagoon."

Arden Inc.'s decision to dump Black Pearls came after the fragrance was rejected by upscale retailers Federated, Dillard, and May's Department Stores, a collective decision prompted by Arden's decision to "cut contributions it pays to help cover salaries of counter salespeople to three percent from the usual 5 percent."

The *Journal* reports that Ms. Taylor wasn't a happy camper about Arden's falling out with the department store. In fact she's considering suing Arden Inc. because her contract stipulated that the fragrance would be launched in "more upscale stores than Sears and Penney's." Face it, Liz, the chickens are coming home to roost. This is what you get when you hang around losers, drunks and closet cases.

At least Calvin Klein was smart enough to pull the rug out from underneath himself. His decision last week to curtail that smarmy and lurid ad campaign featuring kiddie-lookalikes (or were they the real thing?) was superbly timed: he got people looking at his products and then, just before the offended masses stormed the barricades, he absolved himself from any possible criticism by suddenly siding with their outrage. It was a well-calculated move from a man who's no stranger to controversy (remember those controversial Brooke Shields Calvin Klein jeans ads from 1980?).

Indeed, smokescreen has always been Cal's middle name. Just look at the one that's enshrouded his sexuality for three decades. Is he, or isn't he? Well, of course city queens know the truth, but it's how he plays in Peoria that apparently matters most. In light of that, we're hoping a few Peorians read last Thursday's *N.Y. Times* interview with Klein and the architect who is designing the retailer's



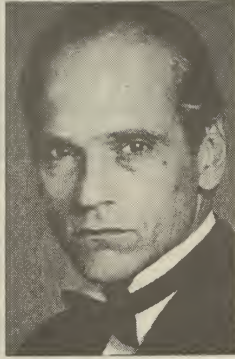
Poor Liz



Calvin Klein



Antonio Banderas



Jeremy Irons

new 22,000-square foot store in Manhattan, **John Pawser**. For buried in the last graph author **Julie Iovine** has allowed this perfectly telling little effusion a la Lady Klein to creep into print: "I just screamed when I saw the mezzanine." Go girl.

Basic Instinct scribe **Joe Eszterhas** penned the most humorous *Variety* article of the week. His fantasy about the status of the screenwriter of the future begins, "In 2000, screenwriters will be as respected contributors to a film as directors." They will also "have the freedom to write women if they are not women, gays if they are not gay, and blacks if they are not black - without facing a gauntlet of liberal-fascist protest." (Memo to Joe: They already have this freedom. The protests only come when hacks like you recycle stereotypes.)

Still on the Cutting Edge: What do **Melissa Etheridge**, **K.D. Lang**, **Elton John** and **Boy George** have in common? Yes, all are talented, openly queer rockers. But George, unlike the other three, is willing to address it in his art. His latest record, *Cheapness and Beauty*, features several cuts whose lyrics deal courageously with same-sex issues. For instance, on "Unfinished Business" George croons about a closeted ex-lover: "You walk like Jack and you love like Mary/And you're more than a bit of a queen." George recently told *Billboard* that using same-sex lyrics "has had a liberating effect on his music." We hope those other previously mentioned crooners will soon follow George's example.

The ever-sophisticated Catholic Church has gotten back into the rating business with its Movie Review Line (800-311-4222). **Clive Barker's** *Lord of Illusions*

cops an "O" (Morally Offensive for all) for being a "gruesome horror movie" with "rabid occult ravings." *Magic in the Water*, which is lauded by the Academy of Family Film and Family Television, gets an A-2 (OK for adults and adolescents, but not children) "because of scenes with menace to children, mystifying rituals and a few vulgar expressions." Mystifying rituals? *Mortal Kombat*, a movie only kids could like, is off-limits except to adults "because of numerous highly stylized martial arts confrontations."

The Real Thing: While everybody's getting off on the straight stars of *To Wong Foo, Wesley Snipes*, **Patrick Swayze**, and **John Leguizamo**, let's not forget the real dragsters who appear in the film - **Coco LaChine**, **Philomena**, **Hedda Lettuce**, **Candis Cayne**, **Lola**, **Kabuki**, **Princess Diandra**, **Fiona**, **Miss Coco** and our own **Jose Sarria**. Even if the film is only so-so, these wonderful and glam celebrities wouldn't be members of the Screen Actors Guild had the film not been made. Thank God for small wonders.

For those actors (and their agents) who worry about being "typed" if they play a gay character, **Antonio Banderas** is proof that one's roles are not necessarily the most important factor. In an Aug. 31 *Variety* interview, Banderas says, "I don't play the Latin lover much, but it is something that has come to me whatever I do. I am going to be a Latin lover forever. Look at the movies I did. I played a homosexual, a vampire, a killer. And everybody tells me I'm a Latin lover. People will probably say it until I lose my hair."

One of our friends from the Southland, **Gregetta**, called to tell us all about the great time he had at

the opening in Hollywood a few weeks ago of **Keanu Reeves' A Walk in the Clouds**. It was a strictly A affair, G reports, though he was surprised at some of the dusty celebs who risked tripping over cobwebs to attend - **Raquel Welch**, **James Coburn**, **Jacqueline Bissett**. The only celebrity whose stardom was strong enough to keep G's face from nosediving into a plate of Stoli-doused petite-fours was **Christian Slater**. G says that Reeves turned up late looking characteristically bedraggled (scuffed shoes; food stains on shirt). Unkempt can be cute in a stud as comely as Keanu, but apparently the actor has let himself go in less attractive ways: "He's put on a lot of weight and he had a really fleshy face," G complained bitterly. Though James, Jacque, Raquel and Christian all came with partners in tow, there was no sign of **David Geffen** anywhere in the building.

Faggot Police: A fan called today to tell us all about some incidental faggotry he thinks he observed on last week's televised Boston Pops program. Seems conductor **Keith Lockhart** (quite a cutie) shared lots of hugs and kisses with **Mandy** (*Chicago Hope*) **Patinkin**, the guest star, before the concert started. What's more, Mandy wasn't the least bit shy about displaying a big red hanky in his left rear pocket. Caller was stunned by what he observed; we're not. What else from someone named Mandy?


She's In, She's Out, She's In, She's ... A lot of us bet good money that **Karen Black** would cancel her planned appearance in the Solo Mio Festival when her show was announced last month. I mean her shooting schedule is just so full these days. Just look at all the movies she's been making lately. Let's see there's ... *Airport '75* and ... Gee, can't think of a single title. Anyway, Out There has just learned that Karen has

rescheduled her Solo Mio performances of *A View to the Heart*, her one-woman show about American song and its creators. We suggest you catch it while you can before she reprises her other act, the disappearing one. Runs October 4-5 at the Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason.


To fill up the hole left in mid-September by Black's cancellation, Solo Mio's organizers had to think fast. Hence, the Sick and Twisted Players' *Karen Black Attack* (September 15 at the Cowell Theatre), an omnibus journey through Karen's most glamorous star turns. Scenes from such monumental art films as *Burnt Offerings*, *Trilogy of Terror*, *The Pyx*, and, of course, *Airport '75* will be lovingly rescued from oblivion by S/T regulars **Tony Vaguely**, **Kathy Queer**, **Timmy Spence**, **Michael G. Page** and **Connie Champagne**. **Justin Bond** is rumored to be one of the superglam guest stars. For tix call 392-4400.

More Nico-Ironies: Though we know director **Susanne Offtinger** didn't plan it this way, isn't it ironic that her film *Nico-Icon* is making its U.S. theatrical premiere here just days after the death of Velvet Underground guitarist **Sterling Morrison**? Morrison, who was 53, died in upstate New York last Thursday of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. He was the original guitarist of the Velvet Underground and his cutting-edge sound influenced later punk and alternative bands, including R.E.M., Nine Inch Nails, Sonic Youth and Nirvana.

Finally, we just read in this week's *The New Yorker* that **Jeremy (Sunny, how are you today?) Irons** will play **Humbert Humbert** in the new *Lolita*, which began production earlier this month in North Carolina. ▼



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photo: Hot House

Nico

Continued from page 29

Nico's haunting vocals, both knowing and hip, seemed to express some ineffable condition, some glamorous existential angst. But can anyone explain why *Nico-Icon* played the Lesbian & Gay Film Festival earlier this year? Is Susanne Ofteringer a lesbian? Maybe it was just another inexplicable decision by Frameline, a bet that enough gay boys and baby dykes had Nico memories to deem it relevant to the gay experience.

"And where will she go, what shall she do, when midnight comes around?" —"All Tomorrow's Parties"

The irony about a documentary this successful is that it has such a zero at its center. Let's face it, Nico was pretty vacant as an intellect and a personality. Or as fellow Warhol superstar Viva puts it, "There really was nothing to talk to Nico about, because she had no interests."

Of course, heroin was something of a hobby. Perhaps the most shocking tidbit revealed about her smack habit is that she turned her own son, Ari, on to

the drug. Ari Boulogne has a great moody presence late in the film. The camera follows him as he shoots pool, looking sultry and handsome like his father, French film star Alain Delon. Ari's sad upbringing serves as the moral center of the film. Earlier, his French grandmother, who raised him when he was in effect abandoned as a baby by his mother, tells a revealing anecdote about Nico's maternal instincts. The rock star celeb arrives to see her son after an absence of three years. What does she bring from America, land of promise far, far away? An orange. Big spender.

Ultimately, *Nico-Icon* is a film about failure: as celebrity and as human being. It forces us to consider how out of proportion to talent celebrity and fame have become in this superficial media world. The sad story of Nico's life is a timeless lesson. As she so presciently sang, "I'll be your mirror, reflect what you are, in case you don't know." ▼

Nico-Icon opens September 8 at the Castro Theatre and The Shattuck Theatre in Berkeley.

Interview with Susanne Ofteringer is on page 49



Photo: Abbie Stone

Nico

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Diet was born Michael Joseph Collins in Catholic, working-class Pittsfield, Mass. He came to San Francisco to reinvent himself and was so spectacularly successful he ended up reinventing San Francisco as well. His playful, queer, campy, militantly avant-garde sensibility manifested itself memorably through The Popstitutes, his performance art/musical group; Klubstitute, his floating cabaret/nightclub dedicated to promoting new talent and social cross-pollination; and Playstitute, his theatrical production company.

Diet was a tireless champion of political engagement, sexual liberation, and self-expression. He will also be remembered for his love of Dinos, smut, Punk and New Wave music, Asian food, basketball, as well as for his amazing fashion sense, generosity, idealism, intelligence, and sharp wit. He is greatly loved and missed by all who knew him. ▼

— Alvin Orloff

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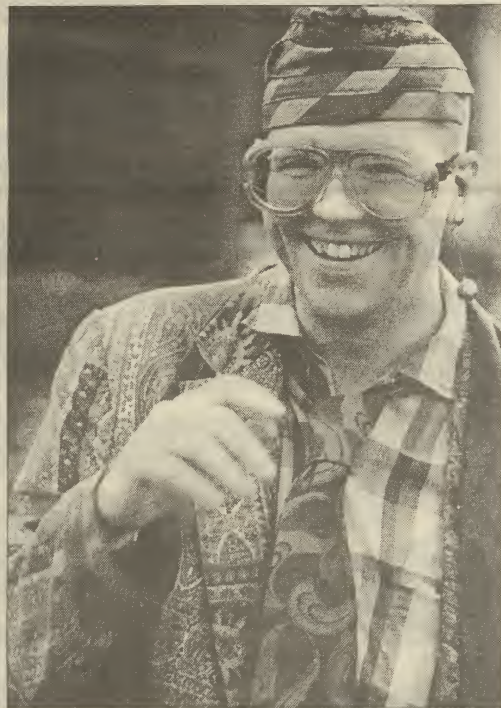


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'Priscilla' Redux

'Wong Foo' falters

by Robert Julian

To *Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything!* Julie Newmar isn't a horrible film, but it isn't a very good one either. With *Wong Foo*, Hollywood attempts to jump on the crossdressing bandwagon, but arrives a day late and a dollar short. Director Beeban Kidron does an adequate job, but despite some good moments, the film is ultimately torpedoed by Douglas Carter Beane's insipid script and one truly disastrous performance.

Unlike last year's *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Wong Foo* is not a musical comedy. There is no lip-synching, no singing, and no choreography beyond the stock drag-queen sashay. Noxeema (Wesley Snipes), Vida (Patrick Swayze) and Chi Chi (John Leguizamo) play three drag queens who leave New York in a used Cadillac convertible on their way to a national drag contest in Hollywood. Just before leaving town, Vida swipes an autographed

publicity photo of Julie Newmar from the wall of a Chinese restaurant, and the photo becomes the trio's good luck charm.

After a few brief stops, the Cadillac breaks down in the Midwestern burg of Snyderville. Presenting themselves to the local yokels as three New York "career girls," the drags take up residence in a tired hotel run by Carol Ann (Stockard Channing — wasted once again) and her abusive husband. Predictably, the "girls" set about transforming the town into Mascara Gulch while altering the personal relationships of its residents.

Of the three leads, John Leguizamo, as Chi Chi Rodriguez, creates the only genuine and believable character. The actor does a wonderful job building a three-dimensional persona, even though his performance sometimes skirts dangerously close to a Rosie Perez parody. Wesley Snipes provides some good laughs and great attitude as Noxeema, a somewhat stereotypical, down-and-dirty snap queen. Snipes' gut-

ter antics serve as a foil for Patrick Swayze's Vida Boheme, the central character, and therein lies the problem.

As Vida, Swayze is groomed like Lauren Bacall, but he plays the role exactly like Dustin Hoffman's *Tootsie* character played the soap-opera actress Dorothy. Swayze cops a "great lady" attitude and maintains it consistently, but he never creates a character. Consequently, he does not have a single believable moment onscreen. Cast in the film's pivotal role, Swayze's ineptitude diminishes the work of everyone else around him; his work here qualifies him for the epithet: the male Barbara Hershey. But, given the script, nothing short of thespian genius could put *Wong Foo* over the top.

Hopelessly improbable

Wong Foo fans will have to overlook a lot in order to accept the happenings in Snyderville. How do three drags with no money, for instance, manage to carry about 40 fabulous costume changes in three small suitcases? Why do they never take off their makeup, even in private? If they are, as the script alleges, gay men who do drag, why do they never appear in male clothing? How does this large, rough-featured trio manage to convince almost everyone they meet that they are real women? If *Wong Foo* were a true screwball comedy, like *Some Like it Hot*, these questions would never come up. But Douglas Carter Beane has fashioned his story as a modern-day morality tale and this forces viewers to take the film more seriously than they otherwise would.

Wong Foo also has a subplot involving a rednecked sheriff who attempts to track down and arrest the drag queens. But in this Hollywood film, good always triumphs over evil. The audience learns why via a series of heavy-handed, didactic speeches and sophomoric moralizing by screenwriter Beane. In the presence of such mediocrity, the inspired brilliance of last year's *Priscilla* only becomes more apparent.



Photo: Universal Pictures

"Beane has fashioned his story as a modern-day morality tale and this forces viewers to take it more seriously than they otherwise would."

For gay audiences, who will probably be bored to distraction by this film, there is some good news. The basic message is uplifting, the film is not insulting to gay people, the A word never comes up, and costume designer Marlene Stewart produces some sensational outfits. There are also two amusing cameo appearances by Robin Williams and RuPaul.

Unfortunately, Julie Newmar herself also makes a brief, wordless appearance in the film's last scene. Pushing 60, Newmar's brief walk-on carries some of the

same emotional impact of the aged Marlene Dietrich's final film appearance in 1978's *Just a Gigolo*. The last image of *Wong Foo* — a freeze-frame of Newmar's face in its current state — affords the audience an opportunity to lament a film that could have been while simultaneously recalling what once was, and is no longer.

To *Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything!* Julie Newmar opens Friday, September 8 in general release.

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The Widow Norton Goes to Hollywood

SF's Jose Sarria in 'To Wong Foo'

by Alan Frutkin



Jose Sarria

Okay, so *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything!* Julie Newmar isn't the greatest movie of all time. But, hey, it's worth the ticket price just to see SF's own Jose Sarria as a judge in the film's opening drag contest. Considered one of the gay community's most revered patriarchs, the 71-year-old Sarria — aka The Widow Norton — was offered a cameo in the film after being honored at last year's Stonewall 25 celebration in New York. Sarria spoke with *B.A.R.* recently about his role in the movie, and dished a bit on all the stars.

AF: How did you become involved with the film?

I met Beeban Kidron, the director, and Christopher Ashley, the director of *Jeffrey*, at a Stonewall 25 reception in New York last year. They told me they were directors, and I said, jokingly, "Oh, I'm waiting to be directed, so when you get a part, just let me know." Well, they saw me in drag and said they'd give me good consideration. But I thought no more about it. I came home, and all of a sudden I got a call from the casting department of Universal Studios. I was really, really excited.

Continued on page 40

'Foo'

Continued from page 29

The locals aren't easily impressed, though, and they spend most of their time holed up in the bar, watching their stories with the volume turned up, trying in vain to dodge the press, like Julia Roberts hiding behind sunglasses in Spago. They seemed to enjoy the attention that a movie brought, at least for a while. But now that the filming is running over schedule, nobody wants to talk about it. Bad omens are everywhere.

The Czech graveyard on the edge of town is the key tourist attraction here; there are more dead people than live ones in Loma. Due to an error in burial, however, evil spirits are said to roam the city, unable to rest in peace. Visitors avoid the graveyard at night.

A Kraft Food Services worker is preaching doom in the converted church. She is convinced that using a house of worship as a snack bar for Universal staff is blasphemous, and she swears that the bad karma surrounding the filming is the direct result of bringing transvestites into God's home. In case any nonbelievers and doubters are skeptical, she adds with a knowing look that Mercury is in retrograde. She does not, however, mention the Czech graveyard. Perhaps it is too obvious.

Cranky queens

For whatever reason, bad karma does seem to permeate the set. Filming is weeks over schedule, as is the very pregnant director Beeban Kidron. The budget climbs by the second. And worst of all, the queens are getting cranky wearing full makeup in this heat, walking in heels across the gravel roads. The sense of tension is palpable. Something's going to blow.

"Take these devices of torture off my feet!" screams John Leguizamo, frustrated with his clunky heels. Wesley Snipes rolls his eyes. He doesn't have to wear heels today, since he only appears in face shots. Even so, Snipes is dolled up in orange spandex and a bright, tight dress, his braids tucked under his cap, with a red purse slung over one shoulder. He's not exactly relaxed.

Patrick Swayze is the belle of the ball today, looking positively fetching in a demure black skirt suit, his calves stunning in spiked heels. He's walking better than most in the dirt and has considerable feminine poise; he is a dancer, after all.

Walking off the set for a break, however, the cracks appear in his veneer. The foundation on his chest — to cover his stubble and pectoral cleavage — is starting to peel, and he is fidgeting nervously with his press-on French manicured nails. "Mame was my role model, with a touch of Gloria Swanson," he says softly, like a chef giving away her secret ingredients. He sighs that he's gotten so accustomed to wearing dresses on the set that he feels uncomfortable when he's not in drag.

Everyone's uncomfortable today, standing in the town square shooting the same scene ten different times. Kidron goes over the shot with patient precision, but the delays turn minutes into hours, as the actors need to take frequent breaks to shave and reapply makeup. Taking a brief dinner break, Kidron sits cross-legged on the floor of her trailer, rubbing the small of her back. The studio schedule is the least of her worries, she says, since she is up against a much more important deadline: she wants to wrap the shoot before she delivers the baby. "I am a little worried about this," she admits. Between the Czech spirits, the church desecration and Mercury in retrograde, Kidron has

a funny feeling something could go wrong.

Fond memories

A year later, the long Nebraska summer is forgotten like labor pains. "We were the circus that came to town," Kidron remembers fondly, literally a sliver of her former self in yoked slacks. Looking back, the director says it was sheer will — and just a touch of luck — that let her hold off labor until the last day of shooting. Today she seems as proud of the unruly cast of *To Wong Foo* as she is of her son, Noah Kidron Style.

Trying to be the diplomatic mother figure, Kidron rations her compliments with an even hand: Leguizamo was the prettiest, Snipes was the funniest, and Swayze carried the plot. Her efforts to keep the men from competing, however, are quickly proven futile.

"I had to keep my hands off myself. I was the perfect woman that I always wanted," says Leguizamo, after seeing himself in a loose baby doll dress and long black curls on screen. "Damn, I was mighty fine, wasn't I? I was a nice little hoochie mama."

Snipes rolls his eyes again, refusing to be drawn into the fight. But Leguizamo has spoken too soon.

"She's cheap and she's easy,"



Photo: Universal Pictures

"Memories of 'gender-bender' tuck-away jockstraps nearly bring tears to their eyes."

says Swayze. "And Wesley may be squeezey, but I am the prettiest, beyond a shadow of a doubt. I have elegance, I have sophistication, and I have class. What other of those bitches have that?"

The beauty competition is in good fun; none of these men is putting on a dress again any time soon. Snipes buried his dress after the shoot was over. Even Leguizamo, renowned for his cross-dressing comedy sketches, says, "I think this thing overdosed the

female quotient of my repertoire."

Months of drag have left permanent emotional scars on the actors. Memories of "gender-bender" tuck-away jockstraps nearly bring tears to their eyes, and Leguizamo notes that make-overs should be used in police interrogation as a form of torture.

But the black cloud that hung over the cast in Loma is history, and the actors choose to focus on their satisfaction with the finished product instead of the memorably

rotten time they had making it.

The only negative energy left surrounding the movie is the bad feeling the film has left with some gay audiences, who feel put off by yet another gay movie that refuses to promote gay actors in its cast. With their performances committed to celluloid and concerns about homophobic depictions largely put to rest, the actors can finally respond with confidence about their parts.

"How much more interesting is it to have a cat who you could never believe could pull something like that off in a particular role?" asks Snipes, noting that several full-time drag queens had been turned down after auditioning in favor of the macho trio. "Most people across the board did not believe it was possible."

In *To Wong Foo*, as in every fairy tale, the impossible became possible, bad omens gave way to good omens, and ordinary working girls turned into queens. The only challenge remaining is selling the film to Middle America, a battle most smaller gay films never have to face. The actors are guarded but optimistic.

"It's sure going to make me proud of this planet if they go for a drag queen movie," says Swayze, his fingers crossed for good luck. ▼

To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything! Julie Newmar

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To the Barricades

Cartoonist Howard Cruse's characters reflect creator's personal journey

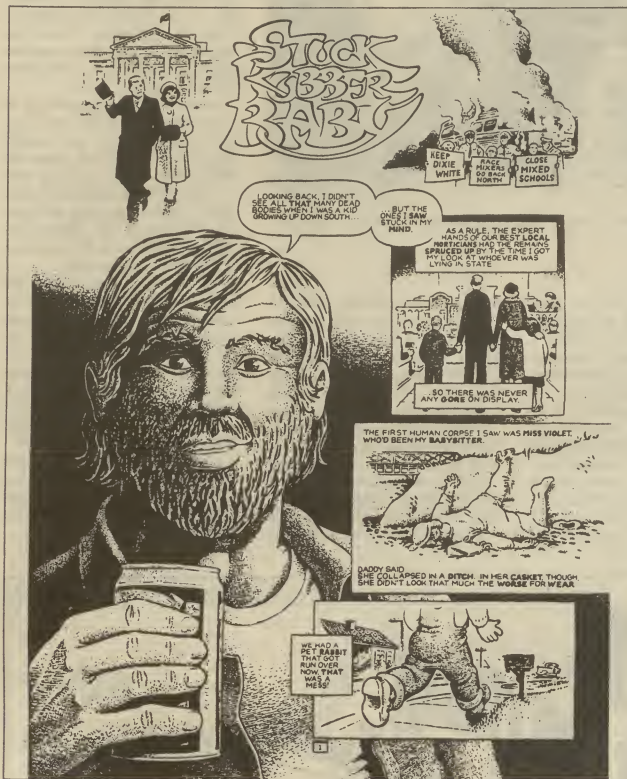


Image from Howard Cruse's *Stuck Rubber Baby*.

by Jay Blotcher

Cartoonist Howard Cruse had a journey to make, back to his humid, sleepy hometown of Birmingham, Alabama. Actually, it was farther; he needed to return to Birmingham of the 1960s, when his city was jerked awake as blacks and whites clashed. Now 30 years on, Cruse felt he had to right some wrongs — with himself.

Back then, as a drama student at Birmingham Southern College, Cruse was held in the thrall of a charismatic professor who felt that art, not politics, would change the world. So, while the world around him exploded in fire and blood, while four children were incinerated in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Howard Cruse stood by and refused to become involved.

Cruse's *Stuck Rubber Baby*, a new 224-page graphic novel (Paradox Press/DC Comics), is Cruse's journey home. While the 51-year-old cartoonist, still hopelessly boyish in appearance, insists that *Baby* is not autobiographical, the parallels are evident. We're in Clayfield, 1963, a town much like Birmingham, looking at life through the fearful eyes of one Toland Polk, splayed against the backdrop of the struggle to bury Jim Crow. Like the younger Cruse, Polk is more concerned with keeping his closet door sealed than with being a Freedom Rider, but the movement sweeps him up into a gallery of souls, some brave, some cowardly, others clueless, all caught in the crosshairs of modern history. The reader is witness to a violent gay murder and an accidental birth and learns of the bravery of mere mortals.

In preparing for what became a four-year project, Cruse first played historian, returning to Birmingham to sketch relics of the era: buildings, police cars, old haunts, gas

station pumps. What was no longer standing, he recreated from history books and Sears-Roebuck catalogs. He also coaxed memories from graying activists who passed on grass-roots street tactics and recounted how homosexuals mingled freely with their brethren in the Civil Rights Movement. "I worried about falling into stereotypical portrayals, so I made sure I was always hearing the voices I knew in real life," Cruse said in a recent interview. Thus, Reverend Pepper, who glows with the piety of Dr. Martin Luther King, was a hybrid of interviewed men and Cruse's own father, a Baptist minister.

Testing the waters

As a tale gnawing inside Cruse for years, *Baby* was initially outsize in its ambition; early drafts encompassed the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Kennedy Assassination. But Cruse's editor persuaded him to scale down his epic, so that characters were not dwarfed by events. "I eliminated a lot of the historical detail," Cruse explained. "I realized I was only showing off." But the cartoonist was adamant on one point: Toland Polk's struggle with homosexuality would dominate the tale, and his first awkward experience with a man would not happen "off-stage."

Courage of this stripe has always lurked beneath the surface for Howard Cruse. When he entered cartooning in the 1970s, he was closeted, falling back on the old saw, "I wanted to establish my cartoons and myself first before allowing the gay revelation." Not that he had any support; the raucous, free-wheeling world of underground comics celebrated free love and drugs, but routinely used homophobia as a punch line. Attending his first gay pride march in Atlanta in 1973 galvanized Cruse, but it was not until 1976 in his comic strip "Barefootz" that he

Continued on page 41

AS SEEN ON THE COVER OF TORSO MAGAZINE, JUNE 1995

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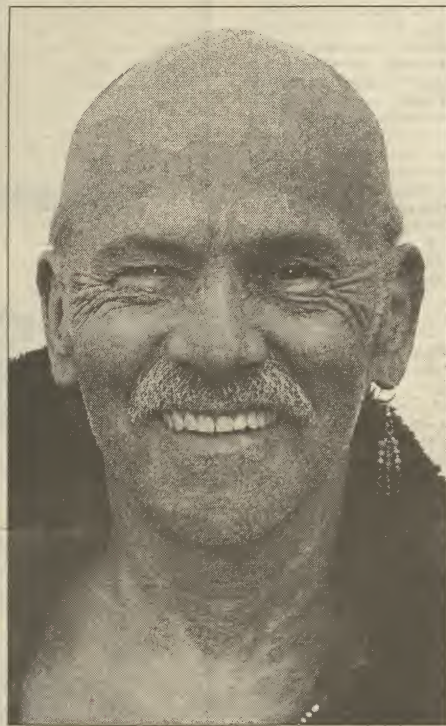
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Theater Blitz is Queer Delight

Downtown San Francisco's theatre district will be aglow later this week when performers from around the globe arrive in record numbers for the fourth San Francisco Fringe Festival, a performance marathon in which 50 theatre companies will mount 160 performances over a period of ten days (September 8-17) at several downtown locations.

For gays and lesbians, there's a lot to see in Fringe Festival '95. Highlights include: Silhouette Company's *An Evening of Impassioned Embraces*, a series of adult comedies exploring the ups and down of impassioned embraces, from two women in a glass elevator to Saturday night at the bar; Heretical Theatre Group and Chameleon Company's *Nondisjunction*, about the struggle of gays and lesbians to follow normal patterns in society; Pink Pearl Production's *Positively Twisted*, about an all-American fag and his struggles to keep his soul alive as he travels from the "dark ages of contemporary Iowa to the bright future of the year 2040"; Bindlestiff Studio's *Whatever Happened to Baby John?*, in which music and movement are used to tell a tale based on Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story*; and *The Lavender Family Circus*, a three ring play about growing up with gay and lesbian parents — "an oral history for those who are juggling homophobia, gay pride and being straight."

The big hit of last year's Fringe Festival was John Sowle's Genet-inspired *Beauty*; this year Sowle returns with Kaliyuga Arts' *Horripilation!*, a journey into the world of ancient Indian drama combining text and ritual; Theatre Kayonan's *Oscar Wilde, The Sacrifice* offers performer Douglas Fowley Jr. in a portrait of Wilde told through the writer's tales and his moving letter "De Profondis," composed while Wilde was in prison; Eastender Repertory's *Thus With A Kiss*, Dean Backus's critically-acclaimed play about an aging teacher whose enthusiasm for life is renewed when he meets 25-year-old Ethan, whose passion for Shakespeare matches his own.

The Fringe Festival kicks off Friday, September 8 with a lively celebration in Union Square that includes comedy and music (12 p.m.-1 p.m.). Performances take place at Actors Theatre of San Francisco, The 450 Geary Studio Theatre, EXIT Theatre and The Press Club of San Francisco. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the door only. For information about the festival, call 673-3847.



Photo: Kent Taylor

Douglas Fowley Jr. in his one-man show, *Oscar Wilde, The Sacrifice*.

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Roberto Scandiuizzi: basso cantante, not profondo

Beneficent Bass

by Paul Thomason

When bass Roberto Scandiuizzi made his U.S. operatic debut in San Francisco in 1992 as Padre Guardiano in Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*, lovers of great singing with good memories (or good record collections) were ecstatic. The B.A.R. called Scandiuizzi (and conductor Roberto Abbado, who was also making his U.S. operatic debut) "nothing short of gifts from the gods." Here at last was a true Italian bass in the great tradition of singers like Ezio Pinza or

Tancredi Pasero. It is a comparison the 37-year-old bass has heard often.

"It's a big responsibility to be compared to the old singers," Scandiuizzi said in a recent interview backstage at the opera house. "Perhaps I've received from God some special quality in my voice. If so, it is my good luck. Some people think I'm a *basso profondo*. I don't think so. Old singers like Giulio Neri or Nazzareno De Angelis had very dark voices. I think my voice, thank God, is a good color, but a very particular category, a *basso cantante*, not *basso profondo* and not bass-bari-

tone."

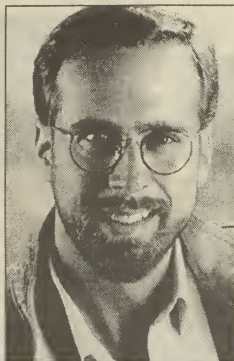
Scandiuizzi and Maestro Abbado will team up again tomorrow night (September 8) for San Francisco Opera's 1995 season opener, a sumptuously cast performance of Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*. Though Scandiuizzi's bread and butter is the mature Verdi roles, he likes singing Bellini, Donizetti and Mozart. "It is very important for the development of the voice."

In *Anna Bolena* he sings the role of the English King Henry VIII. "One of the problems is that Henry in the opera is not true to King Henry VIII of history," the bass explained in a delightful mixture of English and Italian, adding with a grin, "but then Anne Boleyn was not so angelic a woman in history as she is in the opera. Donizetti's Henry VIII has only one face, not the many faces of the historic king."

"Fortunately in this role you have a lot of help (in conveying the character) from the music. You only have to sing what's written, because the music can do the rest."

Knows his limits

It is instantly apparent when talking with Scandiuizzi that whatever gifts he has received have been honed by careful, prolonged study, and that he has very definite ideas about what is appropriate for him to sing. In an era when too many opera singers will eagerly take on roles beyond them simply for the momentary prestige of the engagement, it is refreshing and heartening to learn he knows how to say no.



Roberto Scandiuizzi

Asked if there is a role he has been offered but turned down because he does not feel ready for it, he laughs heartily and replies, "Of course! Boris (Godounov). They're crazy! It's the most important role for a bass, but you have to do many, many roles before singing it. Also the German repertoire, it's just not correct for my voice. Perhaps when I reach 45 or 50. If you push the voice it won't mature as it should."

During rehearsals for *Anna Bolena* he is also studying the French version of Verdi's *Vespri Siciliani* because the Rome Opera decided only a month ago to open its season with the original French version rather than the Italian. Though Scandiuizzi sings a lot of French roles and is comfortable in

the language, he prefers working with a new part for several years before doing it on stage. The idea of singing the French *Vespri* after only a few months of work obviously bothers him. Other upcoming new roles are Verdi's Attila, Gremin in *Eugene Onegin*, and in 1998, Don Giovanni. Later this season he will appear in a new production of *Forza* at the Met.

So far, Scandiuizzi has recorded *Bohème*, *Rigoletto* and *Macbeth*, plus Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. Soon to be put on disc: *Don Carlo* — in Italian. Scandiuizzi refuses to sing *Don Carlo* in the French Grand Opera version. "The first duet between Philip II and the baritone (Rodrigo) is very high for the bass in the French version, as Verdi required the bass to sing very high for long periods of time. The Italian version is for a *basso cantante*, and that's good for my voice."

Though Scandiuizzi really wanted to be a veterinarian, he was studying law when he met his wife, a voice teacher. She suggested he study singing (with her, of course), so eight months later he abandoned law for a singing career. "It's all my wife's fault," he says with another hearty laugh. Thank God for wise women. ▼

Performances of *Anna Bolena* continue through September 30 at the War Memorial Opera House. Paul Thomason will give pre-curtain talks about the opera on September 12 and 15 at 7 p.m. Call 864-3330 for tickets.

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Senescent Scenesters

Don Campbell's *Young at Hearts*, a warm and witty look at a lively group of Jewish women between the ages of 78 and 91, opens Friday (9/8) at the Opera Plaza Cinemas. The film follows an energetic clique who gather regularly for a nickel-and-dime card game at which they tattle about life, sex, death and reincarnation.

Oldest member Ida Engel recalls winning the top prize on the *Gong Show*, and recreates her stirring rendition of "Second Hand Rose"; Freda, a self-proclaimed opera singer and clairvoyant, encourages friends to "get in touch with their inner child"; and Gert surprises the group with her pants-chasing tales and acerbic wit. Queens will enjoy the film's slight hint of camp. ▼

Delicious Discs

by Paul Thomason



Transcriptions from the Operas of Richard Wagner; Liszt David Allen Wehr Connoisseur Society, CD 4199

On those rare occasions a pianist programs Romantic operatic paraphrases or transcriptions in a recital, the result is seldom satisfying. Either the *slancio* and verve necessary to bringing off the piece aren't there (because the pianist is worried about playing all 87,000 notes correctly), or the piece sounds like a tinkling chandelier because the pianist is a technician, not a musician.

David Allen Wehr reminds me of Josef Hofmann. Nothing in this collection of nine Liszt pieces seems to phase him technically – is that really one man playing one piano in the "Festival and Bridal Song" from *Lohengrin* and "Entry of the Guests" from *Tannhäuser*? – yet nothing is mere empty display. If you thought you didn't like Liszt's piano music, do yourself a favor, buy this CD and listen to "Am stillen Herd" from *Meistersinger*. Listen to the way Wehr sings the aria, his use of *rubato* at the end of Walter's phrase "gab das mir oft su lesen" (if only tenors could phrase it that way!), and the way the excitement in the music grows until it simply sweeps everything in its path.

Wehr's performances sound utterly spontaneous and improvisational, as if the music were being composed as we hear it. It is both seductive and exhilarating. Once upon a time instrumentalists listened to singers in order to learn how to phrase a musical line and convey emotion. I can think of many singers who could profit from studying this record.



Dichterliebe, Liederkreis, Heine-Lieder; Schumann Wolfgang Holzmaier, baritone; Imogen Cooper, piano Philips

Austrian baritone Wolfgang Holzmaier's second lieder disc from Philips is an all-Schumann recital devoted to songs with texts by Heinrich Heine. His singing of *Liederkreis* (Opus 24), *Dichterliebe* (Opus 43), and seven miscellaneous songs is persuasive and engaging.

This is an intimate recital. Holzmaier sounds as if he is singing for friends in his own living room, which is, of course, exactly what Schumann had in mind. This allows Holzmaier to do what he does best, carefully but naturally shape words and phrases, shade gradations of emotion

without sounding arch or fussy. Holzmaier is one of the rare male singers who can use his head voice correctly, without crooning. He also knows how to sing softly. So his performance of a song like "Ich wandelte unter den Bäumen" from Opus 24 is nothing short of magic.

When Holzmaier sang Schumann's great song cycle *Dichterliebe* in Berkeley last winter he not only had an "accompanist" who should never have been allowed to play in public, he was also ill (he canceled the end of the tour). Not surprisingly, he sounds much more comfortable here, though occasionally a song like "Aus alten Märchen winkt es" taxes him at both ends of the voice, and sometimes his top takes on a curious bottled quality (for instance the A's toward the end of "Ich grolle nicht"). But considering the artistry of his performance, to say nothing of the beauty of his voice and the way he uses it, mentioning such lapses seems rather Beckmesserish.

Far more typical of the disc is "Ich will meine Seele tauchen," which I've listened to over and over again, marveling at the color and emotion Holzmaier brings to the song's 16 measures and the exquisite touches he introduces, such as the *lufthaus* he uses to perfectly enhance the word "kuss."

A note in the booklet says further CDs of lieder by Schubert, Beethoven, Haydn and others are planned. Hey Wolfgang, don't forget about Strauss!



Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro) Mozart Conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras. With Alastair Miles (Figaro), Nuccia Focile (Susanna), Alessandro Corbelli (Count Almaviva), Carol Vaness (Countess Almaviva), Susanne Mentzer (Cecilio), Alfonso Antoniozzi (Doctor Bartolo), Antonio, Rebecca Evans (Barbarina), Suzanne Murphy (Marcellina), Ryland Davies (Don Basilio, Don Curzio), Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus. Telarc

This absolutely delicious *Figaro* belongs in the collection of anyone who likes Mozart's operas. It is a true performance of the opera, not a collection of randomly recorded snippets compiled by engineers. The real star of the show is Sir Charles Mackerras. He gets the highest praise one can give a conductor. Everything seems exactly right: the pacing, the balances between voices and within the orchestra are just remarkable – one can hear everything without being hit over the head. The drama unfolds effortlessly and seamlessly. I literally kept laughing out loud at the sheer joy of it all.

That was possible because so much astonishing attention has been paid to every single detail that it all ends up sounding utterly spontaneous. Two examples from literally hundreds: in the great Act II finale the way Carol Vaness sings "Susanna!" as her maid unexpectedly emerges from the Countess's

dressing room is worth the price of the recording. As is the string playing in the ensuing 12 measures.

I do have a problem with Alastair Miles' Figaro. Though he sings the music with no trouble, he sounds so stiff he isn't convincing as the wily servant. It's not that he is a bass and most modern performances use a baritone in the role. After all, Ezio Pinza was a bass and no one ever accused him of being an unconvincing Figaro.

Throughout the performance, singers (and occasionally the orchestra) embellish appropriately. That, coupled with the use of a fortepiano and cello (rather than harpsichord) to accompany the recitatives, makes this performance sound different from most others. Viva la difference! In addition to excellent notes in the booklet, the set offers several alternate arias or arias with different embellishments. What a treat! ▼

Talk to Me

- Local Men
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BOOKS

New bio dissects Lou Reed To the Wild Side and Back

*Transformer:
The Lou Reed Story*
by Victor Bockris;
Simon and Schuster, \$25

by Daniel Mangin

The index of Victor Bockris's new biography of rock musician Lou Reed would seem to say it all: Eleven general and 18 specific references under the heading "Drugs" (e.g., "experimenting with," "increasing consumption of," "rationalizing") and separate listings for amphetamine, Desoxyn, hallucinogenic drugs, LSD, methamphetamine hydrochloride, methedrine, peyote, prescription drugs, psychiatric drugs, speed and (no kidding) Unisom. Until recently, Mr. Reed liked to get high. Often.

Of course, Reed is more than the sum of his prodigious drug use. As a member of the Velvet Underground and as a solo artist he has made some great, even important music, including the songs "Heroin," "Walk on the Wild Side" and "Sweet Jane." One of '60s rock's most aloof talents (and one of the '70s' most outlandish), Reed's relationships have ranged from gay (Andy Warhol Factory manager Billy Name and a drag queen named Rachel) to straight (singer-actress Nico, wives Bettye Kornstadt and Sylvia Morales, and current love Laurie Anderson).

Reed has led a most unconventional life, though *Transformer* makes the startling case that underneath it all the artist is a typical kid from Long Island: a bit suburban and the victim of "Jewish-mother syndrome." Reed's mother Toby "smothered her son with attention and concern," writes Bockris, and most of Lou's (he was born Lewis Reed in 1942) youthful compatriots back the biographer up.

Electroshock therapy

Reed's background — passive father, domineering mother — followed the textbook '50s formula for producing a homosexual. When Reed began to exhibit gay tendencies, his parents shipped him off for eight weeks of electroshock therapy. Reed felt angry and betrayed for many years after.

Bockris's take on Reed's psychology — that even at his most outrageous, drug-ridden stage he was always seeking parental approval and attention — borders on the simplistic even if it contains elements of the truth. But Bockris (who in previous books has profiled

Keith Richards, the Velvet Underground, Andy Warhol and Blondie) deserves credit for respecting his subject without ignoring some, in this instance, fairly blatant personality flaws.

Not that the biographer's prose isn't occasionally overblown, as with his description of an early Reed pal (Elizabeth Swados's brother Lincoln): "A pair of bugged out eyes that made Caryl Chessman in the electric chair look like a junkie on the nod stared out of a cadaverous face capped by a head of dirty disheveled blondish hair." Or this assessment of Reed's interpersonal skills: "Like a shark, he [Reed] had an urge to poke at bodies until he found a live one, then devour it as ferociously and completely as he could, letting the blood run down his chin."

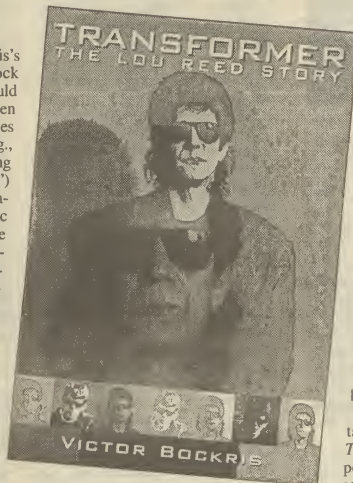
Essentially a writer

Although it works as a tale of rock-induced excess, *Transformer* is more compelling when Bockris focuses on Reed's creativity, sporadic though that may have been over certain stretches. Reed saw himself as essentially a writer who was trying to evoke in music what authors such as Raymond Chandler and Hubert Selby Jr. (*Last Exit to Brooklyn*) did in prose.

"I try to give you a visual image in very few words, so you can picture it in your mind really quick," Reed told an interviewer. "That's the goal. Besides communicating emotion and having a beginning, middle, and an end, I'm really hammering at those words to be concise and get it across to you as quickly and visually as possible."

Near the end of his book, as he describes Reed's early-'90s breakup with Morales and his fights with members of the briefly reunited Velvet Underground, Bockris asserts that "[i]n time, all that will be remembered are the *sounds* and the *words*. Lou's life, or wife, notwithstanding."

Bockris is quite right, which would have been reason enough for a discography (Simon & Schuster provides one to the press, so why not to those who buy the book as well?). But despite its scruffy style, *Transformer* contains more than a little insight into Reed, particularly why he worked best in collaboration with other artists (John Cale, Andy Warhol and more recently Laurie Anderson), and how his personal life informed his output. ▼



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Jose in 'Foo'

Continued from page 34

Did they tell you what to wear?

They wanted me as the Widow Norton. So she packed her best widow's dress and off to New York she flew.

What was the set like?

I arrived at Webster Hall at 6 a.m. And there were about 150 queens out there — all very important, as you well know they can be. And someone said to me, "Well, you better get in line." And I thought to myself, "Honey, I was asked to be here, so get off my back." I walked up to a production assistant and told her who I was. And when she told someone who I was, she said, "Would you please follow me to your dressing room." We went down the street to where all these trailers were, and there on a door was the name Widow Norton. Oh, my dear, if I had never done anything else, it wouldn't have mattered. I was a star.

What was your favorite moment there?

When I got to the movie set, everything stopped. Beeban got up and announced to everyone that the Widow Norton had

arrived, and they all gave me a tremendous welcome. I really felt big.

Did you get a chance to meet the stars? If so, what were they like?

During the three days I was there I had lunch and chit-chatted with all of them. Patrick Swayze was very serious. I mean, this was a job. And he's an actor. Wesley Snipes is also a professional man. No monkey business. His son was there during rehearsals. And when it was time for his son to go, no matter how Wesley was dressed, he'd talk to his son and say goodbye. I asked him what his son thinks of him being in costume, and he said, "He knows that this is my job, so it doesn't affect him."

What about John Leguizamo?

He was just a live wire. We had the most fun, because we spoke Spanish. He'd say things in Spanish under his breath that were just hysterical. He's also a very fine dancer. He'd come by and dance in front of me — shaking and grinding and carrying on.

So getting up at 6 a.m. every day was worth it?

Worth it? When I received my pay at the end, I thought they had made a mistake — but I went straight to the bank to cash it. ▼

The ABCs of Parenting

All The Ways Home
edited by Cindy Rizzo, et alia;
New Victoria, \$10.95

*Lesbian Parenting:
Living with Pride and Prejudice*
edited by Katherine Arrup;
gynergy, \$16.95

Too Far Away To Touch
by Leslea Newman;
Clarion, \$14.95

by Deborah Peifer

Given the baby boom in the gay and lesbian communities, it only makes sense that books are being written about the parenting thing. In fact there are several fine works already in print to help you through the decision-making process involved in choosing to be a parent as well as developing the skills necessary to being a good one.

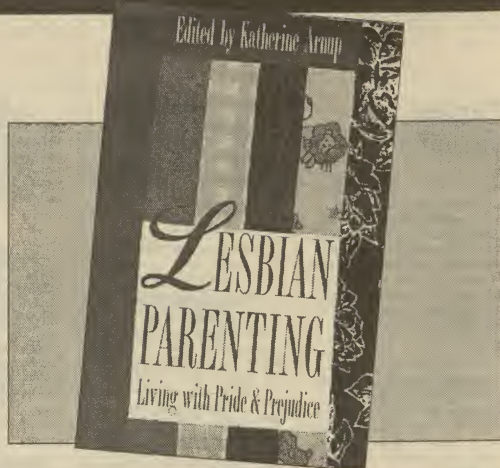
All The Ways Home is a collection of short fiction in which the hows and the whys and the am-I-nuts of parenting are explored with delicacy and humor and more than a little pain. Consider this lovely comment on the joys of the teen years from Candis Graham's "O Mother." "It wasn't easy [when my daughter was a toddler]. . . I was constantly tired. I thought life would be easier when she was older. She's fifteen now and we fight everyday."

Or this lovely bit of wisdom from "For Amy, At the Doorway" by Judy MacLean: "I know my stories of being fourteen are no help to you. I can promise you, though, that telling your own stories of being fourteen will be a comfort when you have attained my great age, and that the worst experiences will make the very best stories." *All The Ways Home* is a wonderful collection, sure to make the choices around parenting easier to understand and, maybe, to accomplish.

Lesbian Parenting is a collection of non-fiction that covers much of the same ground as *All The Ways Home*, but from a real life rather than a fictional point of view. The resulting stories aren't as tidy as fiction, but are equally moving and painfully educational. No one should consider alternative insemination before reading "Having a Baby," "Dykes, Donors & Dry Ice," and "Biddy & Libby in Minusland." Believe me, if you still want to go through with the procedure after reading these essays, you can be certain of the depth of your commitment. The stories are told by both biological and other mothers, as well as by the children of these new kinds of families. I was especially impressed by the class analysis offered by many of the writers, a nice change from the overwhelmingly middle class assumptions of previous books on the topic. *Lesbian Parenting* is full of useful

information presented in an entertaining way - I call that hard to beat.

An important part of the parenting thing is dealing with the big topics (death, the after-life, why a party invitation never arrived) as your children run up against them. In her latest children's book, *Too Far Away To Touch*, Leslea Newman treats the impending death of a beloved friend with gentleness and exquisite sensitivity. The watercolor illustrations by Catherine Stock are charming, and Newman's tale of Zoe and her favorite uncle, Leonard, is delightful and touching. ▼



Cruse

Continued from page 36

revealed a recurring gay character. Still, he recalled, Cruse was hedging his bets; while opening the closet door for the lovable Headrack, he wasn't implicating himself. "I was just testing the waters."

Three years later, Cruse burst out in a big way with a series entitled *Gay Comix*. The emphasis here was humor, not strident polemics. Howard Cruse then sent word throughout the industry asking lesbian and gay cartoonists for contributions. Sixteen years later, in our touchy era of political correctness, *Gay Comix* still raises eyebrows. The debut issue's cover depicts a businessman in a literal closet, ogling a skateboarding Adonis with swelling basket while chomping on a large hot dog.

Between the covers, Cruse contributed a classic to gay cartoon history, "Billy Goes Out." Both cartoonish and hard-edged, "Billy" tells of a young man's night on the town after the death of his lover. Cruse pulls no punches; he depicts the bar scene as empty, collusive and dishonest, a dissenting voice during the free-for-all of the late '70s.

Clearly, Cruse wasn't on a public relations mission; subsequent editions of *Gay Comix* included: "Dirty Old Lovers," a bawdy portrait of horny older men; "Jerry Mack," a tale of a closeted preacher; and the raw, surreal "Safe Sex," a pioneering meditation on the newly-arrived plague, which exhorted gay men to wake up to this new menace. "I knew in my stories I was treading on thin ice," Cruse said. But he dismisses the notion of bravery. "I have a very low boredom threshold," he confessed. "There's a danger of losing interest along the way."

Increasingly feisty

Even his low-key cartoons are mischievously deceptive; "Wendel," which ran in the *Advocate* for several years, was

initially conceived as a sex farce. But it became more subversive in portraying youthful Wendel and lover Ollie as the folks next door. By this time, Cruse was enjoying some measure of recognition in his field; his works were discussed with respect amongst colleagues and he was penning his own column in one comic journal. Fred Greenberg, the sponsor of a circuit of major Northeastern comic conventions, was his first champion; Greenberg, a straight man, always gave Cruse prime placement at a show, forcing naysayers to make a wide detour to avoid him. "There seemed to be a force field around my table," Cruse said. "People would bounce off it and go away."

Subsequent strips have exhibited a feistier tone; one dissected the issue of outing and the hypocrisy of the closet, while another ridiculed the NEA's anti-gay art policy. By the middle of 1990, Cruse and his longtime lover, activist Eddie Sedarbaum, were members of the founding chapter of Queer Nation. Their peaceful community of Jackson Heights, Queens, long a refuge for low-profile domestic same-sex couples, had been wrenched into reality with the gaybashing murder of local resident Julio Rivera. Cruse the outsider was finally at the barricades.

The creation and completion of *Stuck Rubber Baby* have left Cruse exhausted, emotionally and financially. But can one put a price on such a sweet catharsis? Life has taught Cruse one salient point: we must forgive ourselves our frailties. *Baby* echoes the lesson; Toland Polk spends much of the tale beating himself up because he can't be straight, because he can't be as committed to the movement as he wants, because he can't be a husband to the woman he thinks he loves. But in the end, he, like Howard Cruse, makes his peace with every regretful yesterday. "Yes, Toland was a coward," Cruse admitted. "But everybody's a coward sometimes. You also have to be aware of the times when you are brave." ▼

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You floored me with your beautiful smile and hot body. I love Irish Setters too. Let's have some coffee and discuss the Universe. I'm tall dark and handsome and want to know more about you. Call. **6200.**

"Jeffrey" Backstage Party Cute Dark Hair

You gave me your Red Ribbon pin. I never said thanks. Would like to meet to properly, thank you! Me: blond flat top. **6201.**

Russian River Man Dog Named Victor

I've seen you twice. We're soon to be neighbors. I have a Doberman Pinscher and run her on the river. I think you are very sexy. Very nice, beautiful, piercing eyes. Call me. Bart. **6300.**

Sweet's River Grill, Guerneville

You: brown hair/eyes, goatee, green t-shirt/shorts, with four friends, Sunday Aug 13, noon. Me: dark hair, baseball cap, w/ two friends. Would like to meet. **6301.**

YMCA Central

We talked at rowing machine. You are too handsome. I'm too shy to ask then; join me for coffee/tea? **6302.**

Sunday August 20

You: Asian w/ glasses driving a green Bronco type car w/ family. Very cute, kept looking at me in blue Honda as a passenger. Me: GWM. **6303.**

I-80 Road Construction 8/15 10am

You: Standing a long side of exit ramp. Me: black car, blonde hair, tank top, sunglasses. I'd like to meet you. Please call. **6304.**

Seeking Ex-Sailor

Manny B. who served in Yokosuka, Japan as a postal clerk in the early eighties. I'm in town for a couple of months. Please contact me!! **6401.**

Missed Your Ad Just Desserts 7/8/95

About 5:30pm. Me: handsome, clean shaven brunette w/ clear smile in eyes, leaving store. You arriving w/ blk man. Exchanged smiles & 2nd look. I want to meet you too. Please call. **6402.**

Midnight Sun 5/2/95

Met at Midnight Sun in the afternoon. I was in a white shirt. Went to Circuit City for your car stereo. You gave me a ride home. I'm longing for you. Pls call. **6403.**

Michael/Underwear In the Park

Mike I got your message but could not make out your telephone # how about dinner. Try Again. John H. **6404.**

Muni 7/23, 8pm

You: Latin man wearing black jeans at Castro stop. I was wearing blue jeans with goatee. Your friend sat next to you. I got off at Vans Ness. Wanted to talk with you. Give me a chance. Call. **6405.**

Oakland Airport Curbside

Aug. 25, 10:00pm. You: bl guy in overalls with friend in truck. You kept wandering the area and we exchanged glances, however, you got in the truck and drove away with a wave before I could ask for a ride. **6422.**

Nippon Fish Store Sunday 8/13

You: Masculine, handsome, great stache, older man w/ stocky build, with woman buying fish. You wearing shorts & tank top. Me: stocky guy, average looks, close trimmed beard, with my other (says you're hot too). We made lots of eye contact and said Hi at the counter. You left in a black pickup. I wanted to follow. **6343.**

Seeking Relationship M-M

Tall Trim Top

Aroused by power exchange? Safely explore submission with smart, sexy, sane, successful, bi WM, 41, HIV-. Prefer: 30's, attractive, spiritual, muscular, NS, ND. **6203.**

Stylish, Intelligent, Courteous

41yo, 140*, 5'9", smooth, HIV-, financially secure seeks partner for sharing quiet evenings, good food, uninhibited mouth-body contact & tropical vacations. You are honest, open hearted, healthy, NS with nice skin & a shapely butt. **6202.**

The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the Hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play Safe! Protect yourself & those you Play with. Always wear a condom, don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+ don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone. **Safe**

Do You Like Homemade Brownies & Cookies?

I'm fed up with the lame redundant bullshit. I'm an attractive, honest, 26yo, BM, 5'11", 175", blk/brn, great body(really) and guess what, I'm attractive and of substance. Seeking a quality guy of any ethnicity up to 27. Sincere companionship and great eros. **6320.**

New In Town

Tall, attractive, spiritual, GWM, vegetarian, 45, professional, seeking quality man into gym workouts, running, biking, meditation, romance, and enjoy life. Let's have coffee and talk. **6206.**

Looking For A Buddy

To go to movies/dinners/walks. Someone 30 to 40ish, someone alone but not lonely, someone HIV- with great personalities. Me: 5'3", 140, in great shape, live in Vallejo, Leo/Cancer, not phony, very honest, enjoy outdoors, flowers and plants. Lets meet, you'll be pleased. **6204.**

Live In Arrangement

Sought by GWM, 40's, x-88, exec for exceptional young person of mind and body who is directed and gym oriented. **6310.**

Cute Mexican Guy Wanted

Mexican guy who is gd/kin, fun, clean, smooth, bottom 25-32, nice smile. Me: 30yrs, 6', 162, dark short hair/eyes, GWM, fun, good style, NS. Call me. No fat or fens. **6311.**

HIV+, Handsome Man Wanted

By this 32yo, 5'11", 170*, hot and healthy, HIV+, blond. I have good looks and a great attitude. If your handsome and healthy give me a call. Dark hair and features a plus. **6205.**

Let's Hang Out Together

Attractive, 34yo, WM, thinks love follows friendship. I'm a pseudo professional, pseudo intellectual, quasi-deadhead. Not into bars, attitude or bullshit. You are similar creative strong WM 30-40 with something to offer. **6207.**

The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the Hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play Safe! Protect yourself & those you Play with. Always wear a condom, don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+ don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone. **Safe**

Are You A Musc Black Guy?

I'm GWM, 37, muscular, looking for a sculptured, muscular smooth GBM to date. Please be serious, and sincere. **6313.**

Handsome Rollerblader

Masculine, athletic, GWM, tight, 180*, 6'1", 38, hzl/blk, successful, analyzed, professional and major fun. Let's walk, blade or just rest with the sound of your breath in my ear. Seeks yngr GM. **6312.**

Love Will Change Our Lonely Lives

Hugs and kisses come 1st. Me: attrac., GWM, 45, 6'5", 280*, football players build. You: attrac., GWM, 21-35, slim. Interests: TV, video, music, concerts, cabaret, plays, fine dining. Sex: Top, into ass massage, spanking. Starved for affection. **6314.**

Young, Attractive, HIV+, Male, Searching

I'm 6'1", 156*, from Irish/Spanish descent, dr features, olive skin, career minded but adventurous. My soul mate, tall, professional, considerate and open minded, African American male. Healthy and Ambitious. **6316.**

Kissing, Hugging, Rubbing

GWM, handsome, 6'2", 170*, blue/brown, gym tones seeks GWM, muscular, easy going, all man, who wants to explore. **6317.**

Attn, Black Tops (40 and Under)

GWM, 28, 6', 185, musc, brown hr & eyes, HIV+, very masculine/handsome, moving to S.F. 9/1 seeks slim, tall, musc., hung GBM top for rough/safe play & more? Facial hair a +. **6318.**

The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the Hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play Safe! Protect yourself & those you Play with. Always wear a condom, don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+ don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone. **Safe.**

GWM, 40, HIV+, Bottom, Handsome, 6'3", Romantic

Seeking handsome, Italian, Latin, Hispanic, German, Black masculine topman, HIV+, height unimportant, but be trim, hairy a plus, good kisser from head to toe, 25-45 and sexually aggressive/over active, hung long and thick and a real ass lover. Be open minded and playful, sincerity and honesty a virtue. I'm homebody, a real movie buff, smoker with a loving heart. JD. Redwood City. **6208.**

My Biggest Joy Is In Sucking You Off

Is the off part the hot mouthful(s) of you full load(s). I get to savor and swallow as my just reward for the superior cock sucking you deserve, which I go anywhere BART goes to expedite (caution; may be habit forming). **6321.**

I Need A Blonde In My Life

Dominant top guy, 35, 185*, 6'1", muscular, dark hair and eyes, seeks very thin, muscular, blondes, 18-40yrs, for fuck action, good times. **6322.**

Positive Muscle

Where do HIV+ healthy handsome gym boys meet me? Apparently not at HIV+ socials, gyms, usual places. Is it fear of disclosure & rejection? **6323.**

Attention Guys 18-25

Top guy, 35, 185*, 6'1", muscular, dark hair, and eyes, muscular, mustache, HIV-, wants to fuck with thin muscular, athletic guys. Fun times ahead! Inexperienced, curious, bisexual encouraged to replay. **6324.**

Men of Color

Seeking attractive, macho, Italian, Hispanic, Persian, or Light Skinned Afro-American top over 5'10", and under 50 by GWM 5'10", 175*, brn/hzl, attractive bottom, 34, HIV-, prof. for intense, passionate, romantic relationship, many interests, not into gay scene. **6344.**

Romeo, Oh Romeo, Where RU

Tall genteel artist 47, HIV-, S/P hair w/ love handles and average cut hard cock and above average brain & heart, into smokes/aroma looking for average GWM 38-50 w/ cut cock w/ brain & heart for oral romance. **6345.**

Chocolate Sundae Needs Toppings

Professional attractive BM educator, 33, 5'11", 190*, hairy, hung 9", medium build, magnetic personality, devote, loving, romantic, honest, versatile, spiritual seeks professional, honest, communicative, romantic, spiritual, sexual versatile, seeks males under 40 for lover, boy friend, companion, HIV-, if interested and you have my topping give christopher a call. **6319.**

Sought: SF, GWM/GAM Hot Top

For sexy weekends w/ generous, submissive, Southern bottom. You: may be younger than I, affectionate, LTR, oriented. We: healthy, fun, like, dining/drinking. Me: GWM, 53, 5'11", 215* of non-attitude. **6346.**

Sleepless In Seattle

Lonely GBM, 36, 6'0", 230, attractive, nice person, seeks lonely GWM any race for LTR. I like movies, playing the piano, dining, travel etc. Must be HIV-, NS, ND, bottom. Must be able to relocate to Seattle. Serious only. **6347.**

P.R. Stallion, 38yrs, 5'11"

Looking for a person to party and go out doors, hiking, bike, horse back riding, 9 1/2 cock, top looking for a gdsd so I can fuck real good for as long. **6406.**

River Phoenix Incarnation

In search of generous gentle man sharing interests in politics, passion, love, massage & creating world peace! **6407.**

Handsome Husky 210# Dad 44yo

With a fantasy. I come home from work to a clean house and a naked loving boy eager to serve this quality Dad. I have a hard paddle and a caring attitude. Smoker OK, smooth a plus. **6408.**

GWM, Bi Brn/Bik, 5'11"

Very sensual oral creative. Gay incarcerated looking for friend or relationship. Big dick, like outdoors, listen to music, opera, movies, bikes, horse riding, 39yrs. **6409.**

Euro Corps

Full-time professional Student into popular Western European culture and international educational exchanges. **6410.**

Big Brother Wants You!

GWM, 30, masculine, attractive, all American boy/jock type seeks same, 18-30 for fun and adventure into rock music, roller coasters, hiking, bl/bl or bl/br preferred. **6411.**

Wanted: Young Guy With A Near Death Experience

Spiritual, handsome, adventurous, energetic, mature man in a wheelchair, finishing law school, seeks big-hearted guy full of love, preferable Christian, who has the light. Let's meet and build up a committed, monogamous relationship. **6412.**

Hot Hard Top

GWM, 38, 5'6", hairy chest & legs, 145* w/ athletic build, brn/brn, seeks GWM 25-40 in good shape for long sessions on a regular basis. Want to give you multiple orgasms good and deep. No B.S. **6413.**

HIV+ Handsome, Seeks Same

Looking for a buddy to share: movies, walks, sex, dinner, sex, laughs, Russian River, sex, travel, tears, sex, gym. Me: 6'1", 175*, bl/bl, 42, fun & versatile. **6414.**

GAM Cocksucker Seeks Other GAM

For hot time. You must be Chinese or Japanese. Uncut a plus but not a must. **6423.**

Big Bear Wants Cuddies

White male 50, smooth, wants young male 18+ as Father Son relationship. Prefer smooth, short and intact a plus, feminine, heavy a plus. **6424.**

BarTalk Personals are FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Use only the space provided.

Do not attach additional paper or text. Deadline for ads is Wednesday, 5 pm, for the following week's issue. New ads will run for 3 consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. We reserve the right to edit ads.

Select One: ☐ Parting Glances ☐ Seeking Relationship M-M ☐ Seeking Adventure M-M
☐ Seeking Relationship W-W ☐ Seeking Adventure W-W ☐ Fetishes ☐ Couples ☐ Other

Name _____ Day Phone No. _____ Eve. Phone No. _____
Address _____ Apt No. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Write your headline here: _____ (stop here)

Write the rest of the ad here: _____ (stop here)

Mail to: BarTalk, 395 Ninth St., SF CA 94103

PERSONALS

Are You Ready?

Attractive Asian male 32yo, 155, 5'7" with great sense of humor, enjoys cooking, good conversation, movies and spontaneous adventures. You: healthy, toned, WM, 35-40 looking for same. Lets talk and get together. **6425.**

GWM, HIV-, 48

Look for GWM, GHM w/ a thick, big dick who enjoys getting together for good hot times. SF only, HIV-, ND. **6426.**

Together

GWM, HIV-, would like to hear from someone who would like to meet an honest, loving, guy for life. Looking for GWM, GHM, HIV-30-45 were sex is important but not the only thing. **6427.**

Mouth-Watering

Thirty-two year old Irishman, 5'10", 180#, w/ short dark hair and br eyes, down to earth but with a wild streak. Interests include pottery, graphic art, exploring the world. Would like to meet masculine, hairy guy, 30-45, for possible relationship. **6432.**

Seeking Adventure M-M

Muscle Mentor

GWM, 25, totally inexp. seeks mentor under 35 for weight training before boot camp, serious only. **6214.**

Looking For Lean Latino Top

You: Gdiking, well-hung lean Latino, 20-35, HIV-, looking for discreet, non-committal, safe fun in the afternoon or early evenings. Me: gdiking WM, 29, 5'9", 140#, brn/brn, versatile. **6209.**

Rock Hard Muscle Guy Sought

By 40yo body builder. UB over 5'10", and muscled. I am 5'11", 185#, 15" arms, 45" chest, 10% body fat, rock hard & buff. Let's do it slow and sweaty. Interested? **6355.**

Seeking GAM Master to Serve

Ital, 52, good shape, 6'1", 210#, 8" cut with great mouth and ass for master. Bondage, lite S/M, gong bang, if master demands. U/B under 40 dominate top. Leather demands my respect. Reward me with your cum! Punish me if I don't please you! **6211.**

Fin Dist. Head

Get sucked dry on your lunch hr or on your way home by handsome, masc. 44yo. Have own place, discretion guaranteed! You: under 35, in shape, cut dicks only! No recip. needed, regular basis, fine! **6210.**

Companero De Cuero

Masc. SF GWM 36, 5'10", 165# attr. Seeks similar Latino leather comrade for Q/S, give & take, other fun, sleeping together in our collars & harnesses. Prefer smooth, goateed, tattooed, NS. **6212.**

Sensual Shave

If smooth is your game, let's play! GWM, 31, seeks 25-45 for safe, clean fun. Serious only please. **6218.**

Friend into Mtn Bikes

And kick it w/ desired. New to area. Me: Wbi Sgl into almost anything fun. **6216.**

Horse Hung Challenge

I can deepthroat a 9x7 to the balls. Looking for someone as big or bigger. Masc, mature, husky GWM seeks horse hung men who can rise to the challenge. Age and race not important. Also have nice butt. Lets do it one way or another. **6222.**

Free Quality Massage

For cute young guys who take good care of themselves. Great for straight & bi-curious. I'm 6'2", 175#, gdiking, 41, masculine. A safe, pleasurable, experience. Table. **6213.**

Ride This!

5'11", bl/bl, 175#, 35, toned, muscular hairy legs, hung, HIV+. You: bottom, 25-39, fit, dark hair & eyes, hairy chest at+. **6224.**

Seeking Folsom St. Fair Leatherboy

GM Leatherman, 45, 200#, very generous, visiting SF, for Folsom St Fair ISO leatherboy, W or A, early 20's, thin, cute, smooth NS, very submissive, exhibitionist, for wild fantasy day. Limits honored. Your neck, my collar and leash. **6215.**

Friend into Mtn Bikes

And kick it w/ desired. New to area. Me: Wbi Sgl into almost anything fun. **6216.**

Artistic Asian Students

Interested photo artist, WM, 35, 175#, handsome, swimmer, 5'11", short brown, green eyes, goatee, looking to inspire you more ways than one. Give a call & lets see what develops for sure. **6221.**

Stud Pups

Free, sensuous full body massage for cute stud pups. Just stretch out on your stomach for complete relaxation. I'm clean cut, prof. 6'2", 178#, 42 - Table, genuine. **6223.**

Couple

Both bisexual, husband (Swedish, 24), Wife (Latino, 19) seeking men only to entertain wife. Open to suggestion. Discreet. Husband will screen/approve. **6225.**

Hot Horny, Hungry, Slut Bottom

WM, 6'3", 200#, 8x5, wanna be slave. Need fuck buddy top to train me. I want to be fucked and filled up. Show me the ropes. Make me your cocksucking slave. Cum soon! **6325.**

Mutual Dildo Pleasure

GBM, 41yrs, 230#, big chest, nipples and dick seek other forms of mutual sexual gratification. **6328.**

Blow Buddy Sought

Inexperienced Bi WM, 49, 5'9", 165#, fit, clean, masculine. I want to give and receive. SF or Peninsula. Some afternoons, most evenings. **6335.**

Santa Rosa Bi WM Lkg

For GB, WM or CPL who want a safe cln place for any kind of sex my place, smoke drink, ok, toys movies a plus. **6337.**

East Ritualistic Cock Worship

Mainly into intense, heavy mutual dirty talk jerk off. Possible some oral (mostly me receiving) while we are getting fuck up (share expenses 50/50) My place, 10-11 pm. Not into video, shave cocks. Let's put on our own show. Seeking guys very endowed, thickness more important than length. **6349.**

X-tra Cute GWM Needs NEI Type Black Top.

I'm 6'3", 170#, 33yo, muscular, masculine, sweet, educated, successful, passionate and sick & tired of being a top! There must be a very gdiking, nasty, dominant 25-37yo GBM out there, who'll fuck me hard, make me swallow his cum, slap me etc. Please, let it be you. **6349.**

Mexican Seeks WM

Nice friendly Mexican 37yo, 5'4", 135#, green eyes, clean-cut, seeks topan WM for fun. **6417.**

Evil Service Required

Hot, hung, masc., Mex, 5'9", 165#, 35yo seeks good looking gay/bi males with similar description. Race unimportant, vers, ok. Masc. 8 big pecs A+. **6418.**

Suck Buddy

Masc. GWM, 37, 6'2", 195#, B.B., well hung, 8 1/2x6, cut and shaved. ISO in shape under 45 dude who is as obsessed with sucking as I am. Well hung, shaved balls and face a plus, but not necessary. Just be attr, and have a hot mouth and my suck is all yours! **6419.**

Explosive Orgasms

Muscular horny professional, 38, 5'10", 165#, w/ Mediterranean looks hazel eyes & thick wavy hair, well hung + strong drive seeks same aged to younger who is accommodating, sexy w/ dense hair for sensuous foreplay leading to explosive orgasms. **6430.**

Nice Guy Loves Barefeet

Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Very aroused, sensually & sexually by kissing, licking, smelling caressing barefeet in reciprocal action & jo. Gdiking Ebay, GWM, 5'8", 140#, tan, bearded, HIV-, NA. ND. Ebay preferred. **6338.**

The Hottest Guy in Town

Even the Hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play Safe! Protect yourself & those you Play with. Always wear a condom, don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+ don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone. **6 Safe**

Butt Sniffing

Hairy masc. GWM, Mid 40's. Sniffing for other masc. men into sniffing hry pits, crouches and each others butts into hot JO, talking dirty. Hry at+. Prefer Ebay. Must be verbal. No SGM. **6352.**

Muscle Fans/S.F.

Avid muscle fan seeks others for sex play while viewing BB videos, GWM, 35, beard, workable. Live in S.F. area, you too. Let's pump it up, dude. **6421.**

Enemas

You: enemas are your main sex gratification, 20-50, have own equipment, give and receive, experienced, spanking, dildoes. Me: same, have equipped playroom. **6429.**

Couples

Three's Company

Hot black, Latino and Asian guys wanted by two hot GBM for sweaty three ways. We are 30 6'1", in shape, muscular and masculine. You must be in shape, muscular, masculine, hung and looking for good sex. Call w/ detailed message you want be disappointed. **6339.**

The Hottest Guy in Town

Even the Hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play Safe! Protect yourself & those you Play with. Always wear a condom, don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+ don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone. **6 Safe**

Other

Dildo Lover

Tall, slender, blue eyes, 40, ISO male of female dominant to spank me and play. Extremely safe, health conscious a must. Over weight and ugly a +. Ebay. **6340.**

Transcendental FF

ISO shaman top w/ small hand to caress the third chakra. Bliss energy exchange, share primal vision, explore altered consciousness. We have had that revelation, want to get it again. **6341.**

HIV- Caregiver

Seeks similar for friendship, bull session or to unload? Handsome friendly spiritual bear safe & creative live Russian River area. **6342.**

Wrestling Sport Of Kings

Guy 6', 175-180#, muscular seeks guys same size for wrestling. Clean technique, nobody gets hurt. Fun, jock straps or nude. Must be same size. Under 21? Any size. Friendly handsome guy. Wrestling only, no sex. **6353.**

Bar Talk

Call NOW!

1-900-844-2227

Still Only 98¢ Per Minute To Respond To Ads!

Available Only in the Bay Area on Touch-Tone Telephones. You Must Be at Least 18Y/O to Call.

After Workout Sex Sought By

42yo body builder. Seeking younger gym guy to have hot sex w/ in evenings. Let's make good use of the testosterone rush we both get! **6354.**

By Invitation Only

Join hot guys for a safe sex party. We are very selective. You must be under 30 yrs. in great shape & hot. All races welcome. Kick back & enjoy the party! Clothes check provided. **6217.**

Looking For Love

Where are you, separated or DWM, 30 to 45, warm and cuddly, to spend quality time with, lets get together and explore our possibilities. **6219.**

Mtn Bike Guy Seeks

Someone to ride w/ and kick it w/. Sex or Ltr is option. Just be nice, sincere, ND. Please respond quickly. **6326.**

Natural Characters!

Odoniferous, unjeweled, dreadlocked, Eur., Sem., Indic, 120 to 180, 18 to 38, 5'4" to 5'11", omnivorous, HIV-, nudist, unshaven, polyfidelitous, all male, academic, agnostic. **6220.**

Black Top 50+ Wanted

GWM, 55, 6'1", stocky, mustached, wants to meet mature GBM. Looks not important, sexual energy is. **6327.**

Seeking Freaky Huge Nipples

I'm 37, muscular GWM. I would like to date/service a musc guy w/ huge protruding nipples on a reg basis. **6329.**

Toilet Mouth/Rim Pig

GWM, 44, very hot seeks black/hispanic face sitters and feeders. Lets me service your hole as long as you want. Reward me with cum, piss, cheese. I'm hungry. **6330.**

Hey You!

I'm sort of new to the bay and in need of a special friend. Features: White, brn/gm, 5'11", 155#. Enjoy movies, running, working out and sight seeing. I'm seeking a real guy who is compatible to share good times. Any race up to age 30. **6331.**

Low Body Fat

Butch top male, 6'1", Greek fuck active, 35yrs, 185#, muscular, loves thin muscle guys, 18-35yrs, w/ very low body fat for sexual adventure. Very arms, washboard abdominal are big turn on. **6332.**

Hellhole Domination

By devilish dick fuckmaster, 6'1", 185#, 35yrs., muscular. Bare butt bottoms must be thin, muscular, 18-40yo, and love to get drilled. Blondes especially wanted. **6333.**

Butt

Plow my sex starved, itching, tight butt, long, lean, tones seeks similar. GWM, 46, HIV+, NS, BI/DK. BI. **6334.**

Let's Just Do It

To busy to waste endless hours cruising? Attractive, slender, mostly bottom, HIV+, very healthy, GWM wants discreet attractive fuck buddy for uninhibited good time. **6336.**

Ethnic Athletes

Very gdiking biker, 5'9", 135#, 37, brn/blue, HIV-, clean-cut, ISO Asian, Latino or Afro-Amer jocks, tennis players, other athletes under 35 and 140# only for fun, sane, sensual, high adrenaline wrestling. **6350.**

Exceptional Black Top Man

Would enjoy meeting a sincere, tall, husky, masculine, non-bearded bottom man. Sincere, available, easy-to-reach, non-bearded men only. Moustache, BB, aroma A+. **6415.**

P Rican Incarceration

Top, 39yo, brn/bl, 5'11" looking for a relationship & good times. 21-45yrs with ht bottom. Ass loving, likes outdoor, listen to music, opera, movies, horse riding, bikes and motorcycles. **6416.**

DT4TT

Marathon deepthroat gumjob for xxxx thick (got room) dick, and age, race (UC A+). Tit work controls the action. Stoned hours to-the-root kick back action for you. No recip. Trip on your dick. **6420.**

Muscular Asian

GWM, 30, 5'10", 175#, masculine top, attractive, HIV-, light skinned. Seeking others 18-35, in good shape & intelligent. **6428.**

Rustic Looking Types

I'm attracted to rustic, Tenderloin type GM's who enjoy oral sex, kissing and affection from a 38yo GLM facial/long hair A+. Not necessary. ND, smoking OK. **6431.**

Fetishes

Take The Challenge If You Dare?

R U into dirty talk but tired of phone sex? Into JO but meet fuckers/suckers? Into buddy to buddy action but meet top/bottoms? Into getting wasted but meet tea totallers? Then let's party, my place (Oakland, share costs), 10-11pm. No shaved cocks please. **6351.**

THIS WEEK

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 8

The Boys from Syracuse

SF Shakespeare Festival presents the Rodgers and Hart musical based on *The Comedy of Errors*. Tues.-Sun. at various times thru 9/10. \$12-29. Presentation Theater, 2350 Turk. 392-4400.

Crazy & Mixed Up

Paintings by Mark Johnson. Also: Monica Prabha Pillar, Diane Olivier, Sherry Olsen, installation and mixed media. Thurs.-Sat., 12-5pm thru 10/5. Belcher Studios Gallery, 69 Belcher. 626-8917.

(dis)-Ease

New sculptural works by Dan Pillers. Fri.-Mon. 1-4pm thru 9/23. Bewegung Art, 429 S. Van Ness. 703-0554.

Good News

The longest-running musical of the '20s revived. Thru 9/10. \$11-19. 8pm. Woodminster Amphitheater, 3300 Joaquin Miller Rd., Oakland. (510) 531-9597.

Henry IV, Part I

The California Shakespeare Festival presents the historic epic. Tues.-Sun. at various times thru 9/10. \$18-30. Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, Hwy 24, Orinda. (510) 548-9666.

Horription!

A journey into ancient Indian theatre by John Sovie. part of SF Fringe Festival. Tonight at 7pm; call for other perfs. \$7. EXIT Theater, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

Looking for Mr. America

George Birimisa portrays Ritchie, from young hustler to older gay man. Wed.-Sun. thru 9/10. \$12. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Michael McDowell, Masakazu Kusakabe

Recent paintings by McDowell, recent ceramics by Kusakabe. Opens tonight, 6pm. Thru 10/18. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Meg Mackay

Cabaret performer returns. Fri. & Sat. thru 9/16. \$12. 8:30pm. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Making Porn

Scott O'Hara in a new play by Ronnie Larsen. Wed.-Sun. extended thru 9/30. call for times. \$15. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Rosa's Turn!

Billy De Herrera plays Baby Rosa, with dreams of being a beauty queen. Fridays thru 9/15. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Storyboard

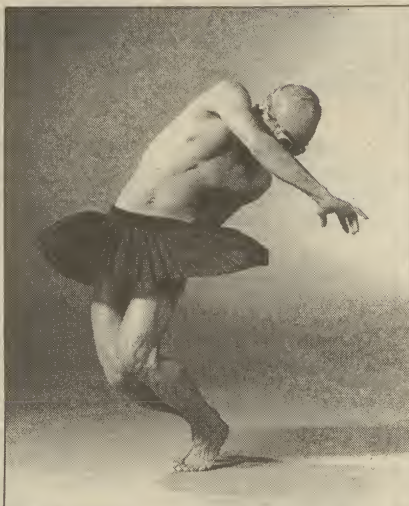
Choreographers Janice Garrett and Jonathan Lunn premiere dance with kinetic wit. 8pm. \$12.50-\$14.50. 8pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Straight White Male II

Group show featuring 16 Bay Area artists, curated by John-Eric Otter. Wed.-Sat., 12-7pm thru 9/16. Four Walls, 3160-A 16th St. 626-8515.

The Sum of Us

David Stevens' play: a widower father and a gay son. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. thru 10/7. \$12-14. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.



▲ Saturday

Enrico Labayen in The Lab., Projekt Performance Group's *Unearthing* at Theater Artaud.

(Photo: Marty Sohl)

Sunny von Bulow

"Is Still Alive," exhibition by Terri Friedman, with "PROJECT ROOM" by Stephen Shackelford. Fri.-Sun. 12-6pm thru 9/17. Victoria Room, 180 6th St. 255-0364.

Tangled Sheets

Contributors read from "Stories & Poems of Lesbian Lust," free. 7:30pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

Thus With A Kiss

Dean Backus' play on love late in life. Eastenders Repertory Company in the 4th Annual SF Fringe Festival. Tonight at 8:30pm; call for other perfs. \$7. EXIT Theater, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

You & You & You

One-Acts about gay men: *West Hollywood Affair* by Guillermo Reyes, *Touch* by David Demchuk, *Him* by Dean Backus, and *Sexual Irregularities* by Brad Erickson. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/7. call for times. \$12-18. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Young At Hearts

Don Campbell's documentary on eight Jewish women in their 70s & 80s opens at Opera Plaza Cinema. call for times. 771-0102.

Saturday 9

Berlin to Babylon

"The Songs of Kurt Weill and Friedrich Hollaender," performed by Cameron Silver, part of SF Fringe Festival. Tonight at 8:30pm; call for other perfs. \$7. EXIT Theater, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

Stacey Collins

Acoustic rock and folk punk. 8pm. The Owl & Monkey, 1336 9th Ave.

Dykes on Slides

Slide show with music and snapshot gallery (thru Sept.) of lesbians and friends at '95 SF Dyke March and

Pride Parade. 8pm. Luna Sea Theater, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

Gay Comedy Night

Marilyn Pittman, Scott Silverman, Tom Ammann. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Kielbasa: Queen of Poland

"A Fairy Tale of Family Roots and Fatty Foods" written and performed by Matthew Morin. Sat. 8 Sun. thru 9/10. \$8-10. 8pm. Climate Theatre, 252 9th St. 978-2345.

Lavender Seniors

East Bay Lav. Seniors, gays and lesbians over 55. Potluck at San Leandro Comm. Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. 510-247-2406.

Much Ado About Nothing

Marin Shakespeare Festival. Thurs.-Sun. at various times thru 9/17. \$11-17. Forest Meadows Amphitheater, Dominican College, San Rafael. 456-8104.

Only In America

Golden Gate Men's Chorus concert of works by American composers: Gershwin, Ives, Rorem, more. Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 6pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. \$10 advance, \$12 door. 626-2883.

Runway 1995

Miss GAPA and Gay Asian Pacific Man Pageant, performances by Lee Sisters and Butterfly Crew. \$16. 7pm. Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason. 587-1315.

Saturation!

American jazz dance and popular song, written and choreographed by K. Craig Innes, benefits the AIDS Project of Jewish Family and Children's Services. Sat. & Sun. \$10. 8pm. JCC/SF, 3200 California. 292-1234.

Solo Soul

Opening night gala for 6th Annual Solo Miso Festival. Cultural Odyssey (Rhodessa Jones & Idris Ackamoor) perform / *Think It's Gonna Work Out Fine*. \$4-22. 8pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

Unearthing

The Lab., Projekt Performance Group presents Enrico Labayen in dance theatre. Sat. & Sun. \$12.50-14.50. 8pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Sunday 10

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

Hike at Pt. Lobos State Reserve. Bring park



▲ Friday

Nathan Wallick and Michael Duden in Dean Backus' *Thus With A Kiss*, part of the 4th Fringe Festival at EXIT Theatre. (Photo: Natasja Szwed)

fee, carpooling cost, lunch. Meet at Safeway (Church & Market), 9am.

Gluttony

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence celebrate the piggy deadly sin, free. 9pm. Hamburger Mary's, 1582 Folsom. 626-1985.

Lesbigny Sports Day

SF FrontRunners host sports, picnic on Angel Island. Ferry leaves from Pier 43 1/2 at 9am. \$9 roundtrip. 776-3442.

Merkinstock

Open call for drag queens & kings, emcees Patsy Cline & Elvis

Herselvis. 12-6pm. Call for out-door location. 331-9595 x300.

Mexican Independence Day

Celebration. Mexican music, crafts, free. 12-5pm. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0404.

Nondisjunction

Heretical Theatre Group and Chameleon Theatre Co. collaborate at the SF Fringe Festival. Today at 4pm; call for other perfs. \$7. 450 Geary Studio. 673-3847.

Opera in the Park

SF Opera, including soprano Carol Vaness, performs free. 1:30pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 864-3330.

PFLAG

Dusty Araujo shows and discusses the video "Both My Moms"



In the Alleys

"Kids in the Shadow of the Capitol," Godfrey Frankel's photos of the hidden Washington, D.C. Also, Flor Garduño's "Mestizos," Kirstie Laird's "Unknown Histories Remembered" thru 10/7. Vision Gallery, 1155 Mission. 621-2107.

Judith Lerner

Portraits in photography, thru Sept. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

The Madonna Collection

Images of the superstar by pop artist Julian, thru 9/22. \$1. Castro Country Club, 4058 18th St. 552-6102.

Frank Pietronigro

Visual Aid: Artists for AIDS Relief fundraiser exhibition thru 11/1. Reception tonight, 6:30pm. Cafe Luna Plena, 558 Castro. 621-2566.

Quiz Bang

Gay trivia game show, every Mon. \$10. 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-TIXS.

Robb Williams

Cabaret singer's act, "When I Sing, You Are the Music." No cover. Mondays thru Sept. Elephant Walk, 18th & Castro.

Tuesday 12

A Defiant Legacy

Exhibition celebrates 25 years of Galeria de la Raza (thru 12/10). Also: "Fabricators: New Bay Area Sculpture" and "Hannah Wilke: Intra-Venus" (thru 10/1). \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

A Night of Great Nutrition

Stories of weight loss, gain, immune enhancers and maintenance. 7:30pm. Kimo's Showroom, Polk at Pine. RSVP: 749-1625.

Salivation

Art by Mark Huckabay, Kevin Leeper, Nelson and Christ in a Bucking ham, curated by Lex Lonehood. By appointment thru 10/13. Fig. 8, 350 Brannan. 972-8090.

Saturday

Runway 1995, the Miss GAPA and Gay Asian Pacific Man Pageant, at the Hotel Nikko.



Thursday

Dancer/choreographer Lawrence Pech, one of the stars of the 14th Annual Men Dancing, at Theater Artaud. (Photo: Steve Savage)

Spectacle

Paintings of dreamlike events by Dave Hidalgo. Thru 10/18. Cowboys & Angels, 207 Powell. 362-8516.

Summertime Visual Essays

Mixed media work about identity by Lydia Cort and Constance Tell. Tues.-Sat. thru 9/23. Sightings, 435 Bryant. 546-1132.

Wednesday 13

Betsy Salkind Unplugged

Comedy extravaganza. Wed.-Sun. thru 9/17. \$12. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Dillsberry, U.S.A.

In Ellen Bosco's play, a leather-clad ghost visits hometown America. Thurs.-Sun. thru 10/1, call for times. \$10-14. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Facing Eden

"100 Years of Landscape Art in the Bay Area" Wed.-Sun. thru 11/26. \$5. deYoung Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Gay Skate

Rink full of queers on roller-skates. \$5 includes skates rental. 8-10:30pm. Rolladium Roller Rink, 363 North Amphlett, San Mateo. 1-800-473-8658.

Mostra 95

Six Italian-American artists. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/1. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

Sacred Gifts

"Precolumbian Art & Creativity" thru 11/26. Also: "The Tomb Treasures of Ancient West Mexico" Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm thru 10/1. \$3. The Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0404.

The Southern Belle Show

Installation by Val Russell. Also: installations "Mother the Son" by Reginald Lamar and "Bodysnatcher" by Camille Rose Garcia. Wed.-Sat. thru 9/30. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Subjects and Objects

"The Chrysler Award for Innovation in Design" exhibition. Tues.-Sun. thru 12/3. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Thursday 14

David Berg, Nina Glaser

New photographs by Glaser, "Buttes and Plains: Paintings" by Berg. Tues.-Sat. thru 10/17. Morphos Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Bingo

Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. \$12. Doors 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. 241-0425.

Dana Carvey

Emmy-winning comedian tapes HBO special. Thru Sat.; tonight at 8pm. \$19.50. Center for the Arts Theatre, 700 Howard. 978-ARTS.

Men Dancing

Leading Bay Area men dancers and choreographers, including Jess Curtis, Robert Moses, Nemesio Paredes and Lawrence Pech. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. \$12-22. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Walt Odets

Author *In the Shadow of the Epidemic: Being HIV-Negative in the Age of AIDS*. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

The Sappho Project

Slide show and discussion of Sappho's life and work, free. 7:30pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

Shrewd Little Angels

Paintings of angels by Scott MacLeod. Thurs.-Sat. thru 9/17. Collision, 417 14th St. 431-4074.

Tech Bash

Group show of artists bashing technology, thru 9/30. Blasthaus Gallery, 217 2nd St. 896-1700.

Women With Balls

Showcase for women stand-up comics, every Thurs. 8pm. Cat's Grill and Alley Club, 1190 Folsom. 431-3332.

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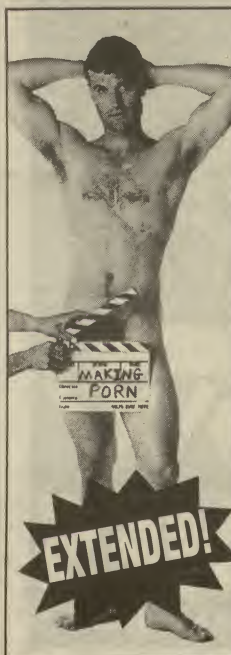
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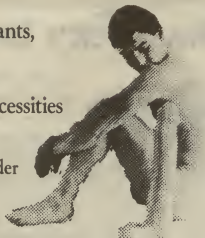
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MR. MARCUS

Hawk Brooks Is New England's Drummer Man; New Daddy's Boy Chosen in SF

My 11-week sojourn into Drummer territories ended in the beautiful and historic city of Boston last weekend where Jeff Zirpolo, manager of the Boston Ramrod, managed to rope the best people in that town's leather/SM community to produce Saturday's Mr. New England Regional Drummer contest.

The event can only be described as a Class Act. This particular contest was billed as a "no frills" event: there was no meet & greet on Friday night before Saturday's contest, nor an official victory brunch for the winner and runner-ups on Sunday. The admission was only \$5 and the wall-to-wall crowd enjoyed a show-stopper production from beginning to end. The high point was seeing '94's Mr. New England Drummer, Bill Timmins, have the Miranda Rights read to him as two authentic gay Massachusetts Highway Patrolmen simulated an arrest, hand-cuffed him and taped his mouth with duct tape, thus denying him his final moments with the 1994 title! It was hilarious. Of course the tape was later removed for Bill's upbeat farewell.

In the opening number introducing the five contestants, the scene was their arrival at the gate to the Kingdom of Vulgaria: as customs agents checked credentials of the contestants and their luggage (everything from porn to fantasy toys), officials found that Bill Timmins' luggage contained at least 50 pounds of drag "accessories." Hence he was banned from entering Vulgaria.

Another contestant carried a submachine gun and a target drawing full of bullet holes on which was superimposed a picture of Timmins' face. The audience was rolling in the aisles. It was a fabulous way to introduce the five jailed contestants. A visiting New Yorker exclaimed: "I think Jeff Zirpolo missed his calling. He should be a circus entrepreneur."

On Saturday, Head Judge Charlie Carley created a computerized scoring system that produced the final results less than three minutes after the final scoring sheets were tallied! Emcee Jim Moran made the production wholly palatable despite mike problems. The judges - Ralph Thurman, Tom Forestieri, Mike Miller, Wayne Goguen and Bill Sanders - awarded points to contestants Hans Reidel (of Connecticut), Ross Nadler, Hawk Brooks, Mike LaMontagne and Seamus O'Toole, all of Massachusetts.

It was evident that much planning went into this production, and when the scores were tallied Hawk Brooks took the title belt and vest. Ross Nadler was selected first runner-up and Mike LaMontagne second runner-up. After the contest, the judges, contestants and fans retired to the home of head judge Charlie Carley and his boy, Lane Edgerwood, where their roommate Mr. N.E. Drummer '92 Ralph Thurmond created a fabulous array of food for everyone.

Boston is a beautiful city, full of beautiful leather and nonleather people, and except for the jarring and unusual practices of "cash only" key and telephone deposits at the Oasis Guest House, I have nothing but praise for the gay/lesbian community there. By the way, if you ever get to Boston don't miss breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner at fabulous Geoffrey's. The food and service there is great. The lesbian waitresses are absolutely beautiful and the bakery chef is the



Photo: Mr. Marcus

Hawk Brooks won the 1995 Mr. New England Drummer title at the Ramrod in Boston last Saturday night, Sept. 2. He's a former resident of San Francisco and used to own the Jacket Shop on Market St.

hunk of hunks! Great atmosphere, great food, great vibes - an absolute MUST!

Now it's our turn. For the past eight months, leather people from around Northern California have been traveling to leather events all over the country. I've been surprised by how many of you I've seen at the contests. Everyone has worked hard to make these events successful and in less than two weeks, it's pay-back time for us:

Beginning on Sunday, Sept. 17 it's the Leather Pride Walk from Daddy's Bar in the Castro to the SF-

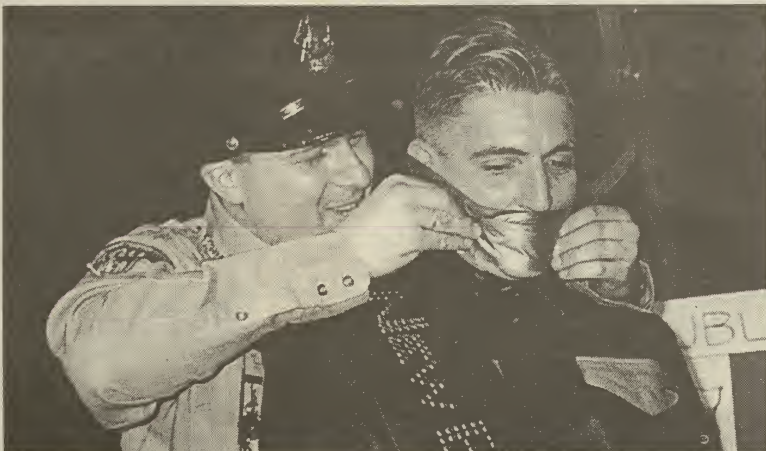


Photo: Mr. Marcus

An "authentic" Massachusetts Highway Patrolman taped '94 Mr. New England Bill Timmins' mouth in the waning moments of the New England Drummer contest. It was later removed for his farewell speech.

Eventures in Leather

Unless otherwise noted all numbers are in the 415 area code.

Thursday, Sept. 7

(Big) Basket Auction at the Edge tonight. You know the rules, the admission price and the bulges. Show your sausage. Empress Donna will emcee. Win \$100, a photo session, and rub elbows and other body parts with The Old Bag.

Saturday, Sept. 9

The Cal Eagles are having a one-day run to Benicia on Saturday, leaving from Daddy's at 1000 in the morning.

Sunday, Sept. 10

An "Images" Party at Greg's Ballroom in San Jose at 1600. Neither IMs.L Pat Baille nor Kevin Roche ever got back to me to explain this event, but it's an "E" ticket affair.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

Golden Gate Guards MC beer bust at the Eagle for \$6. No other details furnished.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. You know the rules, the time, the cost and the Puddles. If not, call 512-PISS.

Friday, Sept. 15

Anonymous HIV testing at 933 Harrison (upstairs) from 2200 to half-past midnight, free. Great service by Blow Buddies and the AIDS Health Project.

Mark I. Chester's Sexart 4 erotic art show opens tonight with a special reception (\$5), featuring the work in many mediums of over two dozen artists. Not for the squeamish. Hangs through Oct. 15. Call 292-3223 for further info. ▼



Photo: Mr. Marcus

The 1995 New England Drummer finalists (L. to R.): Mike LaMontagne, second runner-up; Hawk Brooks, the winner; and Ross Nadler, first runner-up. All are from Massachusetts.

Eagle in SOMA. Volunteers are already pulling together to make Leather Pride Week '95 a huge success for the thousands who are expected to travel here for fun and games.

Our goal, of course, is to raise needed funds and to show the world that San Francisco is the city that Knows How. But we need help. Volunteers are needed everywhere and especially at SMMILE for the Folsom Street Fair. You can do your part by calling (415) 487-9169.

The following schedule is in place and there are a gazillion private and public fundraising events, bar promotions and play parties to take part in:

Sunday, Sept. 17: Leather Daddy Cornelius Conboy hosts a brunch for Leather Pride Walk participants. Call 863-4177 for details about cost, time, and reservations.

Registration begins at 1230 for Art Tomaszewski's 4th Annual Leather Pride Walk, which departs from Daddy's Bar (438 Castro) at 1400 and goes for two miles to the SF-Eagle. Your pledges benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. When you arrive at the Eagle, there'll be an auction for dinner dates with the guys on the 1996 Bare Chest Calendar and art work by the late Robert Uyvari, including the original Arena Bar poster drawing, all from the estate of the late Terry Thompson. The beerbust is only \$8.

Monday, Sept. 18: A blue jeans/Levi/denim event by Steve Gaynes at the Eagle with a beerbust (\$6) and prizes in various categories for your blue jeans in various stages of wear. Hey, it's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Thursday, Sept. 19: Golden Gate Guards MC host an "Eat With Me" beerbust and auction for dates with various leather title-holders (2000-2300). Still no venue named at my deadline.

Wednesday, Sept. 20: All 13 regional Mr. Drummers will be on hand to participate in the annual Basket Auction at the SF Eagle from 2000-2300, a benefit for the Mr. Drummer travel fund. Each will have a basket of goodies from their region. Former IML Lenny Broberg will be one of the auctioneers.

Thursday, Sept. 21: Doors open at 2000 for The Fetish & Fantasy Ball at 1015 Folsom. Both men and women will participate in a non-stop extravaganza beginning at 2100. Leather title-holders from around the world will be on hand doing their thing, including some of the Drummer Men and Drummer Boy contestants. A dungeon and lots of other activities, including demonstrations, will thrill you. Tickets are \$10 at

the door. If you want to participate, call 863-8647.

Friday, Sept. 22: Pier 3 on The Embarcadero is the site of the Drummer Boat party under the Bay Bridge, where Keith Hunt, outgoing Intl. Mr. Drummer, will be roasted in an extravaganza orchestrated by 1994 Mr. Northeast Drummer Joe Ricci (with input from former Mr. Drummers, wannabe Mr. Drummers, and an assortment of the usual suspects). Open to the public with food, bar and "live music" for dancing. Begins around 2000.

Saturday, Sept. 22: The doors open at 1500 at Club Townsend for the International Mr. Drummer finals. Internationally celebrated artist Leon will have his work on display and for sale. Admission tickets are all that's left at \$25 each. Mimi=Freed and Richie Waits will entertain and you'll see the contestants perform fantasies, physique interludes and speeches. After the winner and the runner-ups are announced, a leather dance will continue on the premises, or you can go out and have dinner and party until the cows come home.

Sunday, Sept. 24: The 12th Annual Folsom Fair begins at 1100 on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th. Hundreds of booths, thousands of people of the leather/SM persuasion, five entertainment platforms and more performers than I can list here will be in attendance. Who could ask for anything more?

I arrived back in town on Sunday just in time for the SF Leather Daddy's Boy contest at the Eagle. As it turns out, a leather boy from Alameda, Steve Crouse, prevailed over four finalists in a benefit that raised \$4,752 for the AIDS Emergency Fund. The event was orchestrated and emceed by Leather Daddy Cornelius Conboy with Joan Jett Blakk assisting. A pre-Halloween black-lace dance and pantomime routine by Jacqui Jewels was memorable.

Tom Rodgers managed to raise several hundred dollars auctioning leather garb. But the big hit of the afternoon was mayoral candidate and former Speaker of the California Assembly, Willie Brown. There wasn't a boo in the house as The Speaker auctioned off leather items with the appropriate innuendo and rap associated with such events. He proved a big hit. So far, he's the only mayoral candidate to venture into leatherdom seeking votes and support.

As for the Daddy's Boy results, Steve took the sash and the trophy; the first runner-up was Matthew Hudson; "Link" was the second runner-up. Good show. Good food (by Eichelberger's) and a great homecoming. Photos next week! ▼



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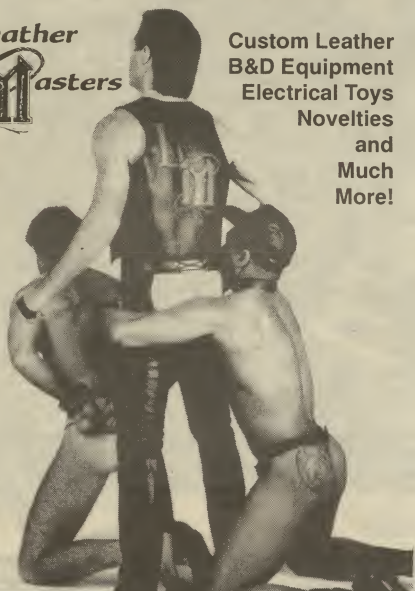
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SWEET LIPS

Pushy Phyllis, Lee-Ona To Host Auction

Congratulations to loyal David Slocum and his lovable helpers at the Gate Bar & Restaurant. Their two-day sidewalk sale/fundraiser for Every Penny Counts netted more than \$20,000. Wow! That's nothing to scoff at, girls. We didn't need Liz Taylor after all.

Ms. Linda Miller, our favorite postmistress, will celebrate a birthday (again!) on Tuesday the 12th. We're hopin' it's a good one, Linda. (I won't mention which birthday she's celebrating, but I can tell you she remembers Wendell Wilkie's face vividly.)

Two weeks ago the city of Portland held its annual "Lucy" boat trip. More than \$3000 was raised for "Our House" hospice. Of course I was there and, despite what you may have read in this newspaper, I was very well-behaved the entire time. All those stories about me stirring up dirt and getting kicked out of Portland for beating up a bag lady (she was toothless to begin with) are just sick, twisted lies.

Ever-glamorous Pushy Phyllis and Mr. Lee-Ona will host an auction and star-studded show on Saturday the 9th to benefit the Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinner Fund (if you sit close to the stage bring an umbrella). I just love Pushy and Lee. They're two of my favorite people, and their onstage patter is to die for. It's from 3 till 6 with a beer bash for \$5 and a hamburger BBQ for \$3. It all happens at the Cinch Saloon. Be there.



Mr. Lee-Ona and Pushy Phyllis

Kimo's Penthouse will be the hottest place in town this season to watch 49ers games. There's a wide screen TV over the bar and with Dan mixing drinks you can't go wrong. So come down and enjoy the \$7 beerbust, popcorn, hot dogs, prizes, etc.

Also at Kimo's is the fabulous Tiger Lily Leather and Lace Show, Saturday the 9th (9 p.m.) after the Ducal Coronation. This year, Mr. Marcus will give a presentation on the splendors of the lace lifestyle.

Yes, there's always something

magnificent happening at Kimo's, and that includes Yours Truly, who can be found on the plank Thursday thru Sunday from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. These days I'm serving my famous "Lips Fizz" (shot of tomato juice, dash of wheat germ, beaker of Stoli), so come on down and join me in a tall one.

By the way, Portland's coronation '95 is on Saturday, October 21. This year they've planned a wonderful weekend of festivities you won't want to miss. More on this later. ▼

REVIEW



Claire of the Moon

Claire of Copacabana

Claire of the Moon
read by Marianne Hyatt;
Naiad, \$16.95

by Deborah Peifer

The *Claire of the Moon* cottage industry continues at Naiad Press. Following the movie, the video, the video highlights, the soundtrack, the T-shirt and the novel, we now have *The Claire of the Moon* audio book.

Naiad's earlier audio books were, I thought, very impressive, well-produced and read by women with extraordinary talent. This latest effort, however, is at best laughable, at worst, just plain awful. I can't decide if reader Marianne Hyatt is a graduate of the Copacabana School of Overacting or if it was Nicole Conn's overwrought prose that brought out the emoter in her.

Early in the first tape, Claire

hears what she thinks is a whole lotta fuckin' goin' on, with many high-pitched squeals of the oh-baby-fuck-me-right-there-so-good variety. Later, she finds out that her roomie, Noel, is actually doing research on pornography, and that what Claire heard was video tapes. How clever, I thought; this terrible overacting will be used as a contrast to the real intimacy that occurs later when Claire and Noel finally get it on. But no, Claire and Noel's squealing is indistinguishable from the earlier sounds of nookie. The result is a lot of unintentional laughs, rather than any hint of Eros. Hyatt's attempt to do different voices for the various characters is a big mistake, since the voices are painfully affected and more than a little annoying to hear.

If you are a fan of the *Claire of the Moon* series, I suspect you will not care for this version. If you already hate the novel, run screaming from this awful tape. ▼

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FILM

Director Susanne Ofteringer explores Nico legend Maximum Cool

by David Lamble

German documentary filmmaker Susanne Ofteringer has a disarmingly simple explanation for her film *Nico-Icon*, an entertaining, if chilling, portrait of a '60s pop cult figure who outlived her short brush with fame: "I used to listen to The Velvet Underground when I was a teenager growing up in Cologne [Germany]. The DJ's said Nico was born in Cologne. It was kind of a fantasy for me - about someone who came out of Cologne and really made it in the world. I later found out that wasn't quite what happened."

As a child, Nico, whose real name was Christa Paffgen, climbed into the family bathtub during the terrifying Allied bombing raids over Cologne. As an adult, beauty became a more reliable buffer between herself and the world. Her stunning good looks - precise, cold, as if sculpted from marble - brought her attention from a long line of charismatic, powerful men - Federico Fellini, Andy Warhol, Paul Morrissey, Jackson Browne, Lou Reed and Jim Morrison. They were patrons, mentors and sometimes lovers - relationships that resembled shooting stars. Ofteringer feels it was Nico's fate to suffer: "[It was a] very typical career of a beautiful woman. On the one hand it gave her many opportunities, but on the other hand people don't want to see any more in her than her beauty."

Model to superstar

In the early '60s, Nico made a name for herself in modeling and advertising. Her face appeared in the pages of *Paris Vogue* frequently, and in 1960 Fellini plucked her from the comfortable anonymity of Spanish brandy ads and gave her a prominent supporting role in *La Dolce Vita*. Instead of becoming the European Marilyn Monroe, Nico demonstrated that she wasn't cut out for this powerful spotlight. "She was described as very lazy," Ofteringer says. "She would turn up late for the shooting with Fellini. A later French film, *Strip Tease*, demonstrated that she wasn't a very good actor - she could really only play herself."

If Ofteringer is right and Nico really only wanted to flit in and out of the flame of fame, her next stop on the tour proved very congenial. For while Fellini was looking for real stars, in New York Andy Warhol was demonstrating that he could manufacture instant underground "superstars" as easily as he reproduced Campbells soup labels. In 1968, Warhol and filmmaker Paul Morrissey were inventing their own rock band. The Velvet Underground was designed to be kind of a Monkees



Nico in the early '60s

for the terminally hip - an instant pop cash cow that would allow both to pursue their expensive filmmaking hobby.

A "New Wave" band a decade before the "New Wave," Warhol and Morrissey felt The Velvet Underground needed something beyond sunglasses and black turtlenecks to set them off visually from the competition. Ofteringer explains that Nico was hired to front the band "as a very strong visual element and also for her voice. The band members weren't too happy about having Nico imposed on them. There was a constant struggle between Nico and the band over how many songs she would get to sing. She would like to have sung everything, of course, but Lou Reed wouldn't let her."

Two years and four albums later, The Velvet Underground was history. Ofteringer says the romantic and musical relationship between Nico and Reed was apparently complicated and twisted - it ended for reasons that are still not clear. "John Cale says in the film that it was a love/hate relationship, something must have happened that [made] this relationship go bad. In 1993, Lou Reed and The Velvet Underground went on a reunion tour, and although they gave lots of interviews, Reed never answered questions about Nico. He also declined to be interviewed for the film."

Heroin and Alain Delon

A pivotal moment in Nico's life occurred during her short and violent affair with Doors' vocalist Jim Morrison. Sadly, the Morrison/Nico relationship has never been fully understood. Ofteringer says virtually all of Nico's friends were eager for *Nico-Icon* to correct what many felt was an inaccurate portrayal of the singer in Oliver Stone's pop movie, *The Doors*. "They hate that she's shown giving Morrison a blowjob in the toilet and that the movie makes her out as this silly kind of person. They wanted me to put the record straight."

Putting the record straight isn't easy when it comes to reconstructing the truth of Nico's dependence on heroin and the shadow this cast over the life of Ari, the son she sired with French actor Alain Delon. Ofteringer says she sees a strong resemblance between Ari, a photographer now in his 30s, and Delon. "Alain Delon's mother is absolutely convinced that Ari is Delon's son. Otherwise she wouldn't have raised him. Edith Boulange says when she adopted the young child, Delon warned that it was going to be 'either me or the bastard.' And she hasn't seen Delon since then."

A bizarre footnote to the relationship between mother and son is that Ari picked up his mother's taste for heroin. The story goes that when Ari was in the hospital recovering from an almost fatal overdose, Nico sat at his bedside trying to think up ways to integrate the sound of her son's respirator into a song. At this writing, Ari is suing to receive a portion of his mother's royalties from the renewed popularity of The Velvet Underground's reissued recordings.

While researching the film, Ofteringer came across a Dutch Nico appreciation society whose poster reads: "Death is something beautiful." Indeed, Nico's death in 1988 had its ironic overtones. Having apparently kicked a two-decade old heroin habit, Nico finally overdosed on a combination of methadone and alcohol.

Ofteringer says she was initially surprised when the greatest interest in her film in the U.S. was shown by audiences at gay film festivals. "I would like to think that gay people were really interested in a story about a very strong woman," she says, "someone who completely reinvented herself and found a special way of expressing that new identity. She was someone who chose to be on the outside of normal life all of her life." ▼

Nico-Icon opens September 8 at the Castro Theatre.



Nico

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AIDS Benefits Counselors: Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group 8-week session begins Sept. 18, pre-registration required. St. Mary's Med. Center, 2200 Hayes. Call 750-5718.

AIDS Community Research Consortium conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia Unit at St. Mary's Med. Center seeks volunteers. Call Ed Schultz, 750-4976.

AIDS Health Project: Mixed caregivers and women's caregivers groups; drop-in groups for HIV+ and PWAs. more. Info, intake interviews: 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline provides telephone emotional support and crisis counseling. Volunteers needed: training begins soon. 984-1902.

Alternative Family Project offers low-fee family counseling, support groups, community forums for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. Next forum on Sept. 8, 2-3:30pm. Call for info: 566-5683.

ANGLES, Andersen Gay and Lesbian Employees. Call Terry Rouman at Andersen Octel node 495, ext. 8058.

BAHAN (Bay Area HIV Advocacy Network) is a grassroots program of the SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, gov't lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. Info: Ryan Clary 864-5855 ext. 3032.

Baker Places provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

Bay Positives: Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Bereavement Groups for family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy: actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez, 575-1545 xBOY.

Break Out! a networking group for gay/lesbian trainers and human resource professionals. Call Greg 431-5651 or Grace (510) 465-0341.

Brothers Network Support Groups: HIV and Recovery, Mondays, 6:30pm, 973 Market, Suite 650. Call for schedule of other groups: 356-8140.

Clinica Esperanza, the HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out group for lesbians: Fri. mornings, 10:30-12, facilitated by Nathalie Paven, LCSW. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. 626-7000, x. 127.

Coming out support group for men meets Weds., 5pm at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome, no fee. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, PhD. Info: 626-7000.

Community - United Against Violence needs volunteers to work their crisis line. Training begins end of September. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Comprehensive Outreach Project for Asian Substance Abusers: reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and treatment referrals. Multilingual. 541-9404.

Consortium for AIDS Volunteer Services seeks volunteers to provide practical and emotional support for East Bay PWAs. Volunteer training Sept. 22-24. Call Eric, (510) 655-3435.

Continuum HIV Day Services: an adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Call 241-5500.

Deaf AIDS Center at UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Directory of HIV Clinical Trials in the Bay Area: free Summer '95 edition. Call 476-9554.

DNCB Support Group: Meets 2nd & 4th Mon. at 194 Church St., 7:15pm. Call 954-8896.

East Bay HIV/AIDS 12 Step Support Group: Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Mon. eves., 6:15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services: Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs. 572-9702.

Extra Positives: Social support group for HIV+ men under 40. Info: 522-9477.

FABRIC, a support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Gay Fathers Support Network of Santa Rosa meets first Sun. of every month, 7pm. Info: Mark (707) 523-6941.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service seeks gay-sensitive law students as Law Clerks, one 3hr. shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3900.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic: Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7 pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7 pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit, a new gay young men's social group (18-35) with a focus on spirituality, meets every other Thurs., 7:30pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

Golden Gate Flyers: gay, lesbian and bisexual pilots. 995-4938.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox, Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives Foundation maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Healing Circle: Begun as an HIV support group, now a space of healing & growth for all men & women. Meets every Thurs. at The San Francisco Center for Living, 4054 18th St. 7-9 pm. 252-1666.

Health Support Services for PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin

Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis "B" Testing and vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV/AIDS Services at Operation Concern: Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS/ARC, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St.

HIV and African-American Gay/Bisexual Men support groups every Wed., 6:30-8pm. Brothers Network, 973 Market, Suite 650. 356-8140.

HIV Care offers the latest clinical trials from the AmFAR community-based trial network and private industry, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Negative Gay Men's Support Group in the South Bay: meets second and fourth Wed. of each month, 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. Info: Pat Duffy, 408-293-2747.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group: Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Discussion Groups: provided by HIV Neuropsych and Counseling Program, free, drop-in. Mon. & Wed., 3:30-5pm thru 12/6, 3700 California, 1st fl., Rm. B. 750-6528.

HIV Positive Youth Group, 18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9898.

Immune Enhancement Project treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center: Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program (LYFE): Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian/ gay/ bisexual/transgender youth. 565-7681.

Legal Services for Children's H.O.P.E. Project provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Linea de Ambiente: Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Living Well Project is recruiting HIV+ Asian and Pacific Islander men and women to share their experiences. HIV+ Speakers Training, Sept. 14&15, 8am-5pm. Info: call Manny, 575-3939 ext. 315.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center: Primary health care for women by women. Counseling, anonymous testing, prevention education, support groups for HIV+ women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC Youth Talkline seeks volunteers, especially people of color, transgressors and people under 18. Call Anne or Olga by Sept. 25, 703-6150.

Malaysian Gay and Lesbian Group: a social support group. Thomas, 789-8042.

The Mark Pope Career Counseling Center: a non-profit career counseling agency serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities of the Bay Area. 760 Market St., Suite 962. 864-8024.

MCC Chronic/Life-Threatening Support Group: Every Wed., 1-3pm, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. Free, drop-in. Call 863-4434.

MWM: a rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Tues. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 795 Market, Suite 420. 227-1586.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group offers ongoing support groups for the HIV community, partners, friends and family. No fees.

Fast track volunteer training begins Aug. 26. 863-1581.

Mothers Organizing Mothers working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 922-4639 or 221-6651 for information.

NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt seeks volunteers for archiving, data entry, community outreach, sewing, more. Call Mike Moreno at 882-5500.

National Association of People With AIDS Fax is a fax-on-demand system which provides free and up-to-date information on HIV funding, grants, insurance, benefits, legal issues and more. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NAPWA FAX: 202-789-2222.

National Association for Visually Handicapped helps people with partial eyesight by supplying visual aids, a free service for SF residents who are HIV+ and losing eyesight. Call for appt.: 221-3201.

Native American AIDS Project: Support, resources and advocacy for Native Americans/ Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

Pacific Center: Gay and bisexual men's HIV/AIDS support group, Weds., 7pm. 1250 Pine St. #301, Walnut Creek. (510) 939-7711.

People with disabilities who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender: Support group at Independent Living Resource Center, SF. Meets weekly, free. Info: Katie 863-0581.

Planetree Health Resource Center Up-to-date medical info to assist in making informed health choices. Extensive consumer health library, current medical lit clippings & health bookstore. Also support groups, health information service by mail. 2040 Webster St. 923-3680.

Positive Resource provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or to attend an employment opportunity orientation mtg., call 928-1448.

Pride & Prejudice: a welcoming group to queer youth meets every Tues., 6pm, at Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market St., Suite 201. Call Nicole at 565-7681.

Project HOPE offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Open Hand provides free home-delivered hot meals and free groceries to anyone with symptomatic HIV in San Francisco and Alameda Counties. Various ethnic and restricted diets available, plus free nutritional counseling. No waiting list. Call 1-800-551-NEAL.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida provides peer counseling, legal assistance, workshops, therapy and housing referrals, free. 864-7278.

Psychotherapy group for gay men explores issues of intimacy, low fee 12-week process groups. Call for info/intake: Operation Concern, 626-7000, ext. 126.

Q Action: Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 621-7177.

Qi Gong for Health: \$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Qi Gong for People with HIV: \$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 11am; Thurs. 6pm. American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Community Clinic, 450 Connecticut St. Info: 282-9603.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center Non-profit clinic provides affordable acupuncture & Chinese herbal therapies; treatment for people living with HIV, chronic hepatitis, PMS & other gynecological imbalances. Stop Smoking Clinic. Tues.-Fri., 1-6:30 pm, Sat. 9 am-3 pm. 861-4964.

Radical Women: Business mtg. 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

re plen ish offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

Richard M. Cohen Residence, SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS, needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and house-

hold donations (call Wayne April, 282-6209).

Richmond Area Multi-Services in SF: offers low fee counseling/ psychotherapy services to sexual minorities, people with HIV/AIDS. Supportive therapeutic group for family/ loved ones of PWAs. English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Russian, Japanese, Mangso. 668-5955.

Sadhana Brothers is a fellowship of gay men pursuing Hindu-based spiritual practices, meeting several times a month. Call Ed, 647-4388.

SF Gay & Lesbian Immigration and Asylum Rights Task Force meets first Thurs. of every month, 7pm, 870 Market St., Rm. 1213. Offers support groups for gay immigrants and their lovers, friends. Shannon, 392-6257.

San Mateo County AIDS Program: provides prevention, health care, services and advocacy. Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 573-2488. Information: 573-2588.

Shanti Project's Latino Program: specifically serves Latino men, women, adolescents and children infected with and affected by HIV. Provides help with emotional peer counseling and practical support. For more information, call 864-CARE.

Stanford Support Group for Gay Men: Wed., 8pm at the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Community Center, Old Firehouse, Stanford Univ. Free. 725-4222.

Substance Abuse Counseling for Lesbians and Gay Men at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. Operation Recovery provides affordable, effective treatment. Drop-in groups: for women, 7-8 pm Mondays; for men, 8-9 pm Thursdays. For information/ intake, call Jill, 626-7000 Ext. 199.

Tambayan is a support network for gay, lesbian and transgender Filipinos in the Bay Area. Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

The Transcendental Meditation Center has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

Transgendered Support Group holds a potluck every third Saturday, 6:30pm at MCC San Jose, 65 S. Seventh St., San Jose. Call Rev. Chad Pifer, 279-2711.

UCSF AIDS Health Project offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Under One Roof, the Shop for AIDS Relief, seeks volunteers to work on the sales floor and in the office. Call Mary Beth, 252-9430.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center SF seeks volunteers to join its AIDS/ARC Volunteer Program. Volunteers visit patients in hospital and help in simple care tasks. Volunteers for AIDS Home Care and Phone Buddy Program are also needed. Contact Ronald Hunt, AIDS Volunteer Program Coordinator, VA Medical Center, 4150 Clement St., 750-2144.

We Care Bay Area provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Weight Watchers Mtg.: Men: 9am Sat., 7pm Wed; Women: 6:30pm, Tues. MCC, 150 Eureka St.

Women's Action Coalition is an open alliance of women committed to direct action on issues affecting the rights of all women. WAC meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 pm (women only), 1360 Mission St., Suite 200. WAC Hotline: 256-6352.

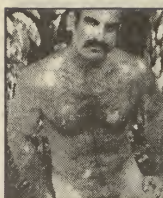
Women's Cancer Resource Center: Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families & doctors. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, newsletter, educational programs, legal workshop & more. (510) 548-9272 or 548-WCRC. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Send Health and Community Listings to: Calendar Editor, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.



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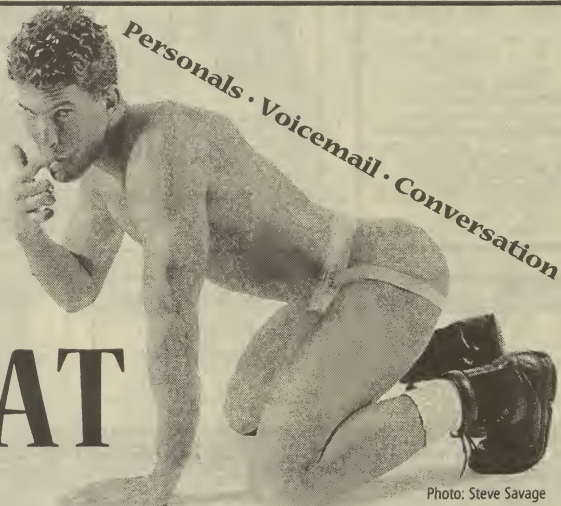


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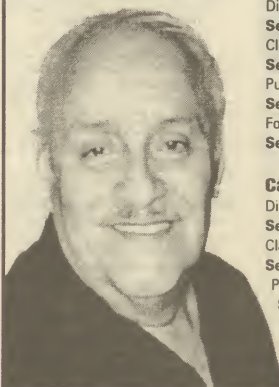
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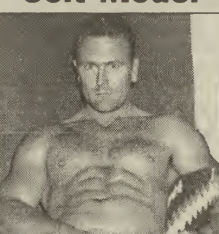
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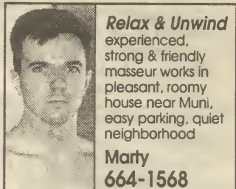


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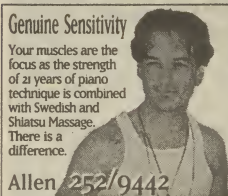
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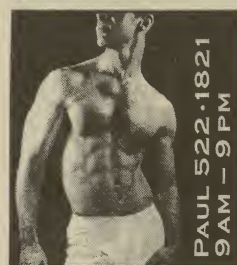
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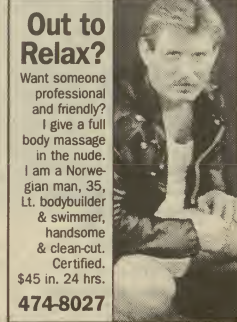
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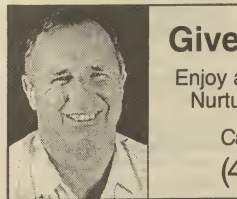


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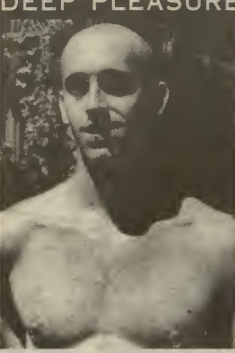
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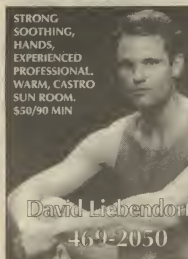
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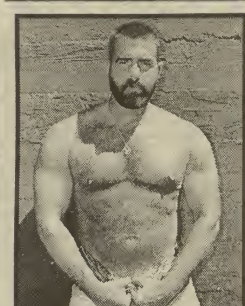
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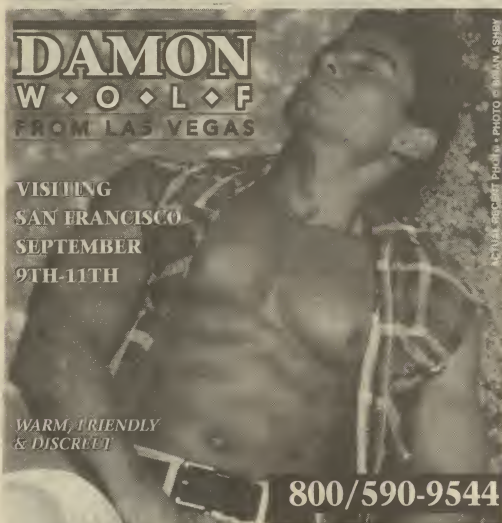
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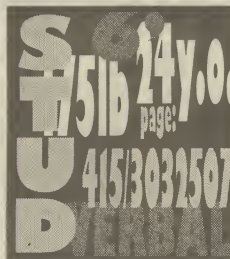
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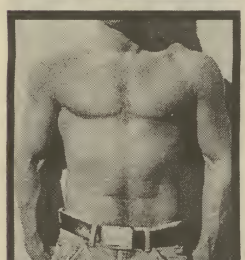
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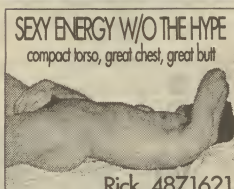
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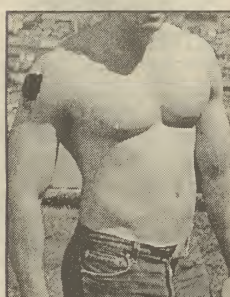
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6'2" Masculine Hairy Blond
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Gdlnkg, 6'1", 165 Lbs.
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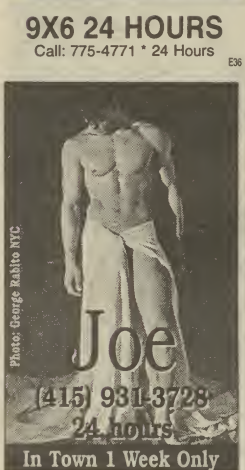
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